





**By STANLEY CATCHPOL**

## VI.--BOGUS TIPSTERS.

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a rubbing in of lard, to which I w  
musk; when well greased with the  
about half full of bran, lay the s  
fur down, and with a "dolly" pour

soft and flexible.  
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That most useful work "Every Man's Own Lawyer" (Cross, Lockwood and Son) has now reached its twenty-seventh edition, the contents being fully revised and enlarged up to the end of last Session. This new matter increases the bulk to nearly 700 pages, and the volume now presents a really admirable digest of law and equity. Houseowners, tenants, masters, servants, buyers, sellers, indeed, all the "classes" and all the "masses," would save themselves an immensity of worry, and no little expense by investing 6s. 6d. in the work. Even the most ignorant can quickly see from it whether they would be wise to go to law. But it teaches much more than that, no small part being taken up with public rights and wrongs. In fine, a very useful guide for the British citizen. The commendation cannot quite be bestowed on "Little Dinners by a Live Lord" (Society Office), although a good enough book in its way. The menus given are, as a rule, far too elaborate to comply with the requirements of "little dinners," which should have comparatively modest dimensions, and aim more at quality than quantity. The enormous size to which, "The Electrical Trades Directory" (Electrician office), has now extended shows how rapid has been the progress of the science with which it is connected. The first issue ran to only seventy-two pages; the present one contains 850, and no doubt, next year's will be well over a 1,000. It is neatly mounted, and adroitly compiled. It will be found very useful for those who purposed. From the Field office comes the magnificent annual, "The Rowing Almanac," by Argonaut. Its contents are, as usual, very full, and he will be but a poor rowing man who does not invest in the brochure.

A largely-attended meeting of the men on strike at Hay's Wharf, Tooley-street, was held on Thursday in Ball-court, when Mr. Tom Mann was the principal speaker. He announced that next week every man out of the wharf would get what would be called 14s. instead of 10s.—(Cheers.)—and they would keep on paying them that sum "until Hughes Smith was knocked a cock." (Cheers.) He asserted that the trade at the wharf was completely crippled, and said that unless Mr. Smith buckled in it would certainly go away altogether. During the month of January they should have received 3,000 chests of Ceylon tea, instead of which he only got 956 chests. (Cheers.) The same month he ought to have received 25,000 chests of Indian tea, but he only got 14,135 chests. (Cheers.) Referring to one of the strikers who had gone back to work, Mr. Mann said the wharf owners had brow beat him into taking his wages, and because if he did not of the Union would. They had taken his measure, they would know him that day week, that day fortnight, that day month, and that day year. (Cheers.) They knew how they should be able to handle a gentleman of that description.—"A manifesto" has been issued by the Strike Committee, in which they request the strikers and brother workmen to refrain from seeking employment at any of the wharves which resist their demands.

VERDICT.  
The hearing of the action of Mr. Henry Campbell, M. P., against the *Belfast News Letter* to recover £5,000 damages for libel, has been heard in public by Mr. Justice Murphy, and a special jury.—The libel complained of is alleged to have been contained in a speech made by Mr. Porter, a Donegal gentleman, in which it was stated it had been shown in the case of O'Donnell v. Walter, that Nationalist members of Parliament and murderers were linked together, and that Mr. Campbell sat in the dock at the Wexford assizes, and was a knave for the knave for Mrs. Byrne with which his poor father murdered were committed. Mr. Campbell was examined, and the jury found for the plaintiff, damages £200.

**CAMBRIDGE**—For Reproductions of two of Mr. Falloway's illustrations of Wreaths China Teapots, and numerous other illustrations, with sixty-six columns of interesting matter, see the BUILDERS' of February 2nd (Ed., by road side). Subscription, 10s.; Office, 6, Colchester-street, London, W.C.

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**THE JERRY BUILDER IN NAPLES.**

The "Jerry" builder seems to flourish in other lands than England. A few days ago half of a large house of four stories in course of construction at the east end of Naples, fell in, burying about thirty-three workmen in the ruins. The 120 men employed on the building had just been called out to be paid, otherwise the loss of life would have been much greater. One of the contractors, who was also inspecting engineer of the building, was on the spot when the catastrophe happened. He, with the head mason, and the son of the latter, who was slightly wounded, immediately took a cab and drove off, and they have not yet been found; in fact, the bodies were rust away, leaving the contractor alone. The house, like many others, was being run up with great rapidity in order to be ready within a fixed time; and it is also supposed that the materials were of the worst kind.

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## OUR OMNIBUS.

## THE M.P.

The attack on the Government, which opened with much sound and fury, has languished terribly since the publication of the report of the three judges, and the contributions of the Irish members in particular have been marked by a note of chastened sobriety which has been remarkable. Indeed, but for the efforts of Mr. T. P. O'Connor their collapse was almost complete. Seldom has a full-dress fight terminated in so signal a victory for the defence. The arguments of the Opposition have been met one by one, refuted, and turned against themselves in a manner almost without precedent. To Mr. Balfour and Sir Henry James remain the chief honours of the fight. Mr. Balfour was never more convincing, or confident, and the facts he laid before the House were such as will find attentive readers throughout the country. To have brought peace to a burden to them by the cruel tyranny of boycotting is an achievement of which any statesman might be proud, and that is what Mr. Balfour can say at the end of three years of office.

The change in the tone of the Separatist press, since they have more carefully studied the Commission Report is not more noticeable than the changed demeanour of the incriminated members and their Parliamentary allies. Their confident boasting is now seen to be part of the game of brag which they have played ever since the Pigott episode ended, and have played badly. If they had moderated their delight at the blunder of the Times, the revolution would not now be so apparent. They now recognise that they have spoiled their own game. The motion by Mr. Smith to adopt the report and lay it on the table of the House has caused them no slight embarrassment. They cannot vote against it without seeming to acknowledge their condemnation. They cannot vote for it without acknowledging its justice, and the addition of a rider, however carefully framed, must leave the hateful paper on the records of the House. Hence there are confusion and divided councils in the Gladstonian camp.

You will recollect how Mr. Labouchere loudly vaunted his intention to drag Lord Salisbury and every member of the Cabinet before the tribunal of an outraged people, for their alleged complicity in the escape of certain persons connected with the recent notorious scandals. To read the weekly instalments of *Truth*, and his speech at Northampton one might have been excused for believing that Mr. Labouchere was for once serious. Not a bit of it. He has come to the conclusion that this sort of thing will not pay politically, and he shall hear nothing further in Parliament, unless, as I hope may be the case, some Conservative member will take the trouble to probe the matter, and call upon the Gladstonians who have fathered these charges, to prove or withdraw them. Mr. Goschen expressed the views of the Ministry when, in his speech at Prince's Hall, he said they were looking for their foe to come out into the open. They will not come in this case, it is now certain.

Press cases have occupied their full share of the time of the courts during the last twelve months, but it is seldom that a newspaper follows the course adopted by the Irish journal, which did not wisely, but too daringly, commented on the divorce case now pending before Justice Butt. To put technical objections in the way of proof of ownership and publication, is not a dignified way of meeting a charge of this kind. Every journal is liable to be misled by its correspondents, but it is seldom that it attempts to evade the consequences by shuffling the responsibility from one place to another as the *Freeman's Journal* has done. One fact has not been noticed in connection with this case; it is that among the principal shareholders in this paper is Mr. Parnell himself and several leading Gladstonians. The circumstances are public property, so there is no need for concealment, but they are peculiar to say the least.

The pending election in North St. Pancras is likely to prove interesting in the highest degree, and it is one upon which no forecast of any value can at present be given. The constituency is a mixed one, comprising the villa residents in Highgate, the railway men at Kentish Town, and numerous skilled operatives, such as those at the large factories of Brimshead, Winstor and Newton's and other large establishments. No useful comparison can be made from the figures of 1885, and 1886, as it is a shifting population, and some 2,500 voters are now on the register who took no part in those contests. The contest is between a confident spirit, Mr. Graham has made hosts of friends, and he is just the sort of man for a metropolitan constituency. Frank and cheery in manners, outspoken in his opinions and well versed in politics he unites many personal claims to success, and if he is well backed up by the party in the borough he will probably win. But the contest will be severe. The Radical clubs and orators, which will go a long way to make up for his apparent unpopularity among a section of the local Gladstonians.

## OLD IZAAK.

I was exceedingly pleased to hear from a friend of mine that my remarks with reference to the holding of another anglers' tournament are likely to have a good result. On Wednesday evening last at the usual weekly meeting of that most energetic suburban society, the Richmond Piscatorial, Mr. Harry Davis read a short paper on "Angling Tournaments," and gave many capital practical suggestions for holding one during the ensuing summer. There was a good attendance of members presided over by Mr. Montague Davenport. After the reading of Mr. Davis's paper a long discussion followed, in which, amongst others, Mr. E. B. Marston took a leading part, the kindly proprietor of the *Fishing Gazette* promising to give his powerful assistance and support towards getting up a meeting this year.

On Tuesday last I went to the Crystal Palace to have a look at the magnificent collection of birds brought together on the occasion of the twenty-seventh exhibition of animals and birds. Foreign game birds were the chief attraction. I saw I strove into the aquarium belonging to the company, and must compliment the authorities on the excellent condition in which their tanks are kept, the whole place showing evidence of the greatest care and attention of those under whose charge the fish and other marine and aquatic specimens are placed. In two of the tanks I noticed some tremendous conger eels, the feeding of which only took place once in a while. There were in all thirty-four tanks, and among the specimens exhibited are bass, grey mullet, skate, ray, sea bream, lobsters, crabs, pike, coad, dace, carp, bream, and many other varieties.

The Thames for many years past has been, and will I expect, for many years to come remain, the principal means of affording amusement to the great and ever increasing body of London anglers; it is essentially, below Staines, at any rate, a free fishing river for the public, yet it is an indisputable fact that the angling public, taken as a whole, do not care to support the preservation societies, who for many years, through evil report and good report, have made strenuous efforts to protect for the benefit of others this superb free fishery. If a larger and better support was given to the funds of the T.A.P.S., and the other preservation societies, there is no reason why the Thames should not become the best general fishery in the country for angling for coarse fish.

I am told, and I believe it is a fact, that the great body of London anglers do not care to fish for salmon, trout, or grayling, or anything but coarse fish. Such being the case, and if the

various preservation societies are to be supported by the public, their interests must be of the first consideration. Now I have lately read a letter setting forth the idea (which is by no means a new one) of introducing certain of the salmon kinds into the Thames. From a long and close study of the question, I feel certain that, in the interests of anglers generally, it is not advisable to introduce such fish to the river. If the preservation societies limit their endeavours in this direction to increasing the number of ordinary Thames trout, jack, perch, and all species of coarse fish, I am certain their efforts will meet with more general approbation from the general angling public.

Theotters, which have been making great havoc amongst the fish in the Laleham district, would seem to have been attracted to that part of the river on account of there being a good head of fish in the neighbourhood. Alfred Harris has been getting his customers some good sport in Jack's net, and the same fisherman another day, with Mr. Hunt, ten jack, the three largest, 12lb., 6lb., and 5lb. Harris says this is one of the best days he has had for many years. The river is again out of condition, but without heavy rain should be in good order by the time these notes are in the hands of my readers.

## PIPER PAN.

On Tuesday last I spent a pleasant afternoon with the hospitable officers of the Royal Artillery at their quarters on Woolwich Common. I was invited to be present at the first performance of a new comic opera, written by Major Jocelyn R.A., and composed by Mr. Zaverl, the able bandmaster of the regiment, and conductor of the R.A. string orchestra, supported by the R.A. officers. The libretto contains some really charming lyrics, and the plot of the piece is interesting, and well set forth.

Mr. Zaverl has furnished melodious settings of Major Jocelyn's verses, and has taken great pains with the orchestration, which, although the orchestra consisted of wind instruments appeared to me too strongly marked; the stringed instruments having few chances of winning distinction, although they were kept pretty constantly at work. As it is likely that the opera, which is entitled "Love's Magic," will ere long be heard at one of our London theatres, I hope to find more consideration shown hereafter to the excellent violins, violas, cellos, and double basses whom Mr. Zaverl has trained.

The three personages of the opera were excellently represented by Miss Clara Perry (Mrs. B. Davies) as Teresa; Mr. Ben Davies as her lover, Guido, and Mr. E. Delsart as Gasparo, the villain of the piece. Several portions of the opera were deservedly encored, and hearty applause was bestowed by the 1,200 visitors who had been invited to the handsome theatre, officially known as the "Royal Artillery Recreation Rooms." The opera was preceded by the farce, "A Husband in Clover," in which two clever amateurs, Miss Stuart (daughter of General Stuart) and Lieutenant-colonel O'Callaghan, R.A., successfully undertook the characters of Lydia and Horace.

I have just received stalls for the chamber concert of the students of the Royal Academy of Music, at St. James's Hall, next Monday afternoon. The programme is interesting, but carefully prepared. "Obbligato" is spelt with only one "b," there is no accent over the two first vowels in "elégie," and "Ah non guingué" is misprinted "Ah non guingué." Mistakes of this kind should not be found in the programmes of a R.A.M. concert.

On Tuesday last I attended the performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Globe Theatre, with the whole of Mendelssohn's delightful music to Shakespeare's comedy. The excellent band, ably conducted by Mr. Boggetti, played the "Wedding March," "Scherzo," and "Fairies March" admirably, and the chorale, "Ye Spotted Snakes," the song "On the Ground" (Miss Mitchellmore), with chorus, and the final chorus, "Through the House," were capitally executed. I strongly recommend my readers to profit by this opportunity of listening to the bright inspirations of Mendelssohn in connection with the famous play to which it is fitted.

I regret that I cannot speak favourably of the performance of "Les Cloches de Corneville" on Monday last, at the Opera Comique. Mr. Shiel Barry (Gaspard), and Mr. Ashford (Gobbo), repeated familiar successes, and Miss Elsie (Serpolette) was a satisfactory substitute for Miss Verona, but the other characters were poorly represented. The scenery and costumes were good, and a competent orchestra was directed by Mr. Glover. Perhaps the popular opera will go better when the performers become more familiar with their rôles.

The clergy are beginning to recognise the fact that the public may be attracted to their churches by performances of good music, and I notice with pleasure that the whole of the service at All Saints Church, Kennington, on Sunday, March 2nd, organ and vocal performances (free to all comers) will be given.

At St. Marylebone parish church, Dr. Stainer's "Crucifixion" and Sir Arthur Sullivan's "Prodiol Son" will be performed on alternate Thursdays in Lent, commencing with the first named work on Thursday next, February 27th. My readers may be glad to learn that they may obtain free tickets of admission on (written) application, with stamped and directed envelope, to A. Claxton, Esq., 28, Devonshire-place, W.

I am not surprised to learn that the recent performance of Verdi's "Otello" at the Berlin Opera House was but moderately successful. The rôle of Otello was taken by the "pudgy" Belgian tenor, Sylva, who stands about five feet three inches high, and is as the opera house service at our Royal Italian Opera some years back his voice was of poor quality, and it is not likely to have improved since then. Why was he assigned the exacting rôle which severely taxes the fine voice of Tamagno?

We are accustomed to protests against the exorbitant terms demanded by Madame Patti, but I have just received from a trustworthy source the information that the famous Italian tenor, Masini, was paid £400 per night for forty performances last year at Buenos Ayres, and is to be paid £1,000 per night next season.

I remember Masini's only appearance in England, when he sang the tenor part in Verdi's "Requiem" at the Albert Hall, with Verdi himself as conductor. Masini sang well, and had a fine voice, but I have heard many tenors whose voices have pleased me more. My readers will be the first to learn that we are likely to have Masini at our Royal Italian Opera this spring. The question of his salary has been settled, and the only point now under discussion is the number of times that he will appear.

## BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

An obliging, too obliging, correspondent invites me to inspect three feline corpses, which he calls "mummified cats." He discovered them under the floor of a house where he has been at work. Very interesting objects, doubtless, but the mummified cats I should like to see are those which underwent a process of embalming some thousands of years ago. The carcasses found by my correspondent are, I suppose, those of three unhappy cats who were, by some accident, shut up and starved to death. Dead rats are sometimes found in a dried up condition under similar circumstances, but they would become dust in much less than a thousand years. The singular circumstance is that three distinct tabbies should have been found together under the flooring.

A native paper at Calcutta is responsible for one

of the most horrible stories I ever read. It affirms that in some parts of the city it is quite common to see butchers skin goats alive. "The skin of the animal is separated from the body by a sharp knife, and the meat dealer tears it off while the poor animal cries bitterly." The alleged reason for this atrocious inhumanity is that the skin fetches a rather better price than the whole animal. The story is so revolting to the senses, that the tale may be disbelieved until confirmed by authentic evidence. The local Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Society could hardly have remained in ignorance of this dreadful practice, if so common as alleged. All the same, Indian butchers are cruel enough for anything.

Among my pets are two charming little budgerigars, "love birds" as they are commonly called. For the last week or two they have been acting with most of the symptoms of moulting apparent, and I was at my wit's end to imagine the cause. All of a sudden it occurred to me that, when hopping about the room, they made a practice of pecking at the wires of a cage inhabited by a yellow hamster. Now, this cage is painted a bright green, and no doubt arsenic enters into the composition of the paint. What more likely than that the budgerigars inadvertently poisoned themselves when pecking at the wires? Acting on this idea, I rigorously secluded the little beauties—which then looked on the point of death—in their own cage, and dropped a couple of rusty nails into their drinking pan, iron being a specific in arsenic poisoning. They at once began to mend, and are now, I consider, out of danger.

In answer to my inquiry as to the training of blind men's dogs, E. W. P. kindly writes that some time ago a man was taken up on the charge of imposing upon the public, and trying to obtain alms by pretending to be blind. He was led by a dog, and was tapping the pavement with his stick in blind beggar fashion. The policeman, having watched him and discovered that he could see, took him into custody. The man, however, proved that although he was not blind, neither was he a beggar, and had not asked for charity, but was a trainer of blind men's dogs, and was practising his calling in the street. Of course, he was acquitted.

Mr. H. Terry tells the peculiar manner in which he once captured some rooks. He was returning home one evening and observed a solitary rook, fast asleep on the ground, with his head under his wing. Taking off his coat, his correspondent threw it over the bird's head and captured it. On next year he saw another bird in the same position which was also caught and so were a third, a fourth, a fifth, and a sixth, all of them being in a state of perfect oblivion. He took them home and had them made into a pie, which, my correspondent adds, was delicious. Personally, I should have been rather afraid to partake of the pie, fearing that the birds might have been poisoned. If they were not—and as Mr. Terry felt no ill results from his repeat, I presume they were not—it is hard to find a reason for their peculiar condition.

Mr. Sparling tells an interesting story, illustrating the manner in which certain spots are peculiarly affected by certain birds. When a boy living down in an old country house, he was much interested in the manners and habits of birds. In a crevice in a summer-house there, a redstart always came to roost every year. Circumstances necessitated my correspondent's removal to London, where he stayed for some time. More than fifteen years afterwards he returned to his native town, and, on visiting the old garden, discovered that the hole in the summer house was still inhabited by redstarts, in all probability descendants of the original pair, who, in their turn, perhaps, succeeded others of the same kind.

My slow-worms, constant friends of mine, which reside in a glass case indoors, have once or twice lately come up and taken a walk round their premises to see if the spring has come yet. I have had one pair of them for several years now, and they seem to grow more healthy every month. They have become quite tame and come up to my fingers when I put them in their case, hoping to get slugs. In my opinion they are much more hardy to keep than snakes, and they are easier to procure, and they do not escape in the same way. I can confidently recommend them to any one desirous of keeping reptilian pets.

## THE ACTOR.

It is pleasant to know that the chief character in Mr. Burnett's forthcoming play, "Nixie," will be a girl, and not a boy of the Fauntleroy type, which is now, for a time, exploded. Little Miss Webling, who is to play Nixie, has been seen in the provinces as Fauntleroy, and I am told, by those who have witnessed the performance, that it was a very clever one. The Weblings, as many know, are altogether a clever family, of which the younger members have been before the public for some years past.

I hope that the matinee to be given at the Globe Theatre next Tuesday will be a great success, for the sake of the excellent society—that for providing dinners for poor children at a penny a head—in whose aid the entertainment has been arranged. "Adrienne Lecouvreur" (with Miss Wallis), and the new dialogue in which Vera Bernier and Minnie Terry are to appear, ought to be a safe "draw." The stalls, boxes, and dress circle will, of course, be filled, but I should like to see all the cheaper seats occupied also.

While much sympathy has been felt and expressed for Mrs. Langtry in her recent illness, it has not, perhaps, occurred to many to commiserate the members of her company, who, it is rumoured, have suffered from some cases, possibly pecuniary loss by the postponement of the opening of the St. James's. If this be so, they are very much to be pitied, for their position would be a particularly uncomfortable one—minus money on the one hand, and on the other not knowing whether to seek another engagement or not. The player's lot is by no means always one of "beer and skittles."

Mr. Irving's address at Wolverhampton reads well, and no doubt was charmingly delivered. Only those who have heard him on such occasions, or in private, have any idea of the charm of his manner and his elocution. On the stage, Mr. Irving is often hoarse of voice and ungainly in motion. Off the stage, his accents are pellucid, his style easy and agreeable, his gestures graceful. Few things are more delightful than to hear him recite some comedy where he is surrounded by choice spirits; he is also very happy as an after-dinner speaker, his impromptu being genuinely successful. I remember how admirably he retorted upon Lord Houghton, when that nobleman made some rather unhappy remarks about Shylock at one of the Lyceum banquets.

It is said of one of those who were present the other afternoon at the production of "Quick-sands" (by Miss C. Morland), that he was so depressed by the performance as to be heard murmuring the passage in "Locksley Hall" about "The dreary, dreary moorland," &c. But as this would have been rather ungracious of him, let us hope the story is not true.

The revival of "Les Cloches de Corneville" at the Opera Comique will be the means of reviving also many memories about former productions, both in London and elsewhere. Of course the performances at the Folly were the best ever given, but a very interesting representation was supplied by the first of the provincial companies—that which included Miss Florence St. John, Miss Barker, Mr. John Lawson (an admirable Gaspard), Mr. George Barrett (a rollicking Baillie), Littletham James, and others.

Probably "Les Cloches" has been represented by more companies than any other comic opera. I can remember half a dozen Germanies and

Baillies and Gaspards. Miss Cora Stuart (now Mrs. T. W. Robertson) once played Germaine, and very charming she was in it. But no one ever realised the character so thoroughly as Florence St. John while personally I preferred the Gaspard of John Lawson to that of Shiel Barry.

Not only has Miss Dorothy Denaken Miss Kate Rorke's place in the cast of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Globe, but Miss Ada Ferrar has returned to her old part—Hermia—lately supplanted by Miss Maud Milton. Miss Milton's performance was excellent, but Miss Ferrar's has more life and reality in it. This young lady seems undined to take a high position in her profession. If mistake not, she used to be one of the Dramatic Students, and since then, I believe, she has had much experience in the country as a member of Mr. Benson's company.

Elsie Leslie Lyde—formerly the little Lord Fauntleroy of New York, and now the representative of the dual rôle in "The Prince and the Pauper"—appears to have received from Mark Twain and Mr. W. Gillette a pair of wonderful slippers, wrought entirely by the hands of the two earnest amateurs in the art of embroidery, and accompanied by a letter in which Mark Twain was genuinely and sincerely funny. Elsie, in reply, says that she thinks the slippers splendid, and that she will keep them among her most "precious" things. The youthful actress appears to be not such a "dab" at spelling as she is at acting.

## GENERAL CHATTER.

From time to time one hears that the omnibus companies are about to provide their vehicles with better means of illumination. But their good intentions would seem to be of the material used for paving Hades. The dismal old lamps, which only serve to make darkness visible, are still in use, and after dark passengers can do nothing but grope at one another through the gloom. I feel assured that the companies would find their reward were they to remedy this defect. It compels numbers of people to patronise the bus, who would much prefer to travel by "bus" if they could only see to read.

Now that Mr. Barnum has taken his departure, it is permissible to state that "the greatest show on earth" was something of a disappointment. Not that an ample entertainment was not provided, but British expectations had been raised far higher than the actual performance. That is the weak point of sensational placards. When one sees, for instance, a picture of a man swallowing a boa constrictor, or vice versa, it is a distinct disappointment to be palmed off with a gentle lady fondling a grass snake or slow worm. There ought to be some reasonable degree of correspondence between the picture and the thing pictured.

It is surprising what a deal of common sense exists in some juvenile brains. Our little girl—year-old—lost the other day at a considerable distance from home, and in a district with which she was entirely unacquainted. Instead of rushing about wildly, or sitting down on a doorstep to howl, she walked on leisurely until she met a policeman, to whom she gave herself in charge. That, of course, ended her trouble, as she was passed on from one beat to another, until she could find her own way home. Could any adult have shown greater wisdom under the circumstances? I know of some who would have gone on guessing at the right direction until they were brought to a standstill by complete bewilderment.

For real comfort and convenience there is nothing like a scientifically constructed gas-fire. You can light it or put it out in a moment; you can increase or decrease the heat at will; it never smokes, nor is there any danger of a fall of coals. As for cheerfulness, the one I have is so bright that many people have mistaken it for a coal fire. The only drawback is the higher cost, but that is not so very great when allowance is made for the coals consumed before any body of heat is generated and for those burnt after all occasion for the fire has ceased. Some people imagine that gas used as fuel gives off noxious fumes. That is only the case when the fire place is improperly constructed. As for dirt, gas is immeasurably cleaner than coal.

Mr. Monroe might advantageously take notice of what roes on every Sunday alongside of the Thames just above Putney. Although not in the least degree a Sabbatarian, I do most strongly object to the desecration of Sunday by shooting at bottles, throwing for coconuts, and other pastimes of a Bartley Fair sort. Nor is it easy to understand the sweet reasonableness of permitting these gambling forms of trading and prosecuting shop keepers who do business on Sunday. If the commissioner cannot spare time to deal with this nuisance I would commend it to the notice of the Lord's Day Observance Society.

A correspondent suggests that a public subscription should be started to present the Times with a national acknowledgment of the insect-male world. I know of some who are revealing the close connection between Parnellism and Crime. No doubt, a very large sum would be quickly forthcoming, but I doubt whether the Times proprietors would accept anything in the shape of a monetary testimonial. When one was offered to them many years ago for exposing certain frauds, they declined acceptance.

Cardinal Manning is rather "off spot" in his diagnosis of the present conditions of the labour market. He censures the long hours, the employment of women and children, the scantiness of wages, and the uncertainty of employment. This indictment might have been watered a few years ago, but it is a ludicrous misrepresentation of existing facts. Speaking of the whole mass of the working men, it is certainly not true that they work too long, receive too little, or are liable to frequent loss of employment. As for feminine and juvenile labour, the Factory and Workshops Acts sufficiently prevent any chance of cruelty or oppression.

Somewhat alarming news comes from St. Petersburg. It is reported that several unmistakable cases of cholera have appeared there, threatening the prophecy that the influenza would be followed by the terrible Asiatic scourge. This happened when Europe was previously victimised by Russian influenza, but science failed to detect any direct connection between the two diseases. It may be that this disconcerting alarm may prove groundless, but our sanitary authorities would be unwise to make light of the warning.

The Chins, against whom our troops are operating on the Burmese frontier, appear to be as festive as their name. Colonel Treagar came upon one illustrious chief in such an advanced state of intoxication, that negotiations had to be postponed. The only explanation given of his disgraceful condition was "that he was in search of a wife!" It would appear, therefore, that the sin which Sir Wilfrid Lawe's labours is considered by the Chins the proper preface to matrimony.

Quite played out at last is poor old St. Valentine. For several years he had been in very infirm health, but it was reserved for 1890 to end his career. Post Office statistics show that there was no appreciable augmentation of its business on the 14th inst. The morning postal delivery took place punctually everywhere, although the practice (one cannot help a feeling of sentimental regret that St. Valentine should have shuffled off his mortal coil. He was a source of pleasure to many, of pain to very few.

The Lord Mayor's appeal on behalf of the living sufferers from the Lanerch explosion, will, no doubt, meet a liberal response. It is estimated that £25,000 will be needed to provide for the 75 widows and 185 orphans; the sum is large, but the benevolence of London is infinitely larger, and it would be huray to doubt that the entire

amount will soon be forthcoming out of the metropolitan pocket. Trade Unions should take advantage of the opportunity to demonstrate that they do not reserve all their funds for the purpose of stirring up quarrels between capital and labour. Perhaps too Mr. Burns will send a few hundreds to the Mansion House, out of the large balance of the Dockers' Relief Fund. No subscriber would, I feel assured, object to that.

## MR. WHEELER.

A valued correspondent sends me a recipe for cleaning tricycle chains, which he guarantees to prove efficacious. Having obtained some flat road-racks large enough to hold the chain when coiled up, pour in sufficient paraffin to cover the chain. Leave it steeping for two days, giving the receptacle an occasional shake, and when by this means all the dirt has become detached, hang up the chain to drip. It will be found perfectly clean throughout, and ready for use.

Another correspondent who pleads guilty to having loved tobacco and malt not wisely, but too well, writes me that he has derived great benefit from limiting himself to half ounce of tobacco and a quart of bitter per diem. His adipose tissue has diminished as much as his wind has strengthened, while he sleeps much better, and his temper is more equable. In short, a most happy transformation. So, go and do likewise, ye whose daily consumption of the prescribed luxuries in question exceeds the prescribed quantum. My correspondent must have formerly gone rather extensively for them, judging from the liberality of his present limitation.

Some writers are very harsh in their judgments of the wheeling 'Arry. They pronounce him an unmitigated nuisance, and covet his extermination. I think they are more charitable if they reflected on the amount of benefit, both moral and physical, that accrues to him from the pastime. As I see the light-hearted creature, urging on his wild career, I think of the picture what he would be at but for the invention of the modern cycle. There would be nothing for him to do after work than to loaf at street corners and outside pubs, as is still the custom of those of his class to whom the delights of wheeling are unknown. Can there be any question, then, that his virtue and his vigour are alike improved by the astonishing performance of the modern cycle? The highly superior cyclist. For my own part, I look forward confidently to the gradual amelioration of poor 'Arry's peculiarities, by the pressure of public opinion. Sooner or later, he must learn that there is little humour in running down old women and children, or in screaming like a catamount, or in presenting a rowdy appearance.

Correspondents often ask me to state the exact speed of one machine or another, just as if cycles were driven by steam power. I suppose they imagine that if an Ommond or a Synner can do so many miles in the hour, any one else mounted on the same machine could equal the performance. Of course, it is the rider, not the thing he rides, that makes the pace; the latter only contributes in a very slight degree to any difference of speed. I assume, of course, that there is an equality of workmanship and of model; one often sees machines on the road which even the redoubtable Holbein would fail to make much of.

It is, no doubt, this common notion that the difference in speed lies in the machine and not in the rider, which influences so many makers to boast of the records established by their respective makes. It is rather cruel on their part; they should remember the bitter disappointment of the aspirant to racing honours who, after purchasing, say, a safety which has accomplished twenty miles an hour, finds he cannot do much more than half the distance. Several cases of this sort have come under my notice, and in each the disappointed one consoles himself with the assumption that the vendor of his supposed flying wonder palmed off an inferior article on him.

Now that the cycling season is within measurable distance, it would be well for club committees to warn their members against furious riding within urban limits, and also as to the necessity of observing the N.C.U.'s laws governing road-racing. Those disposed to offend should remember that every successful prosecution gives occasion to the enemy to represent cyclists as a hopelessly lawless class, and, therefore, not deserving of the same rights that are bestowed on the owners of other vehicles. We have still to live down a great deal of opprobrium, some part undeserved, some deserved, and the only way of accomplishing that is by undeviating good conduct on the road.

Of all the miserable looking objects I ever saw, I cannot call to mind one that surpassed a wretched wheeler who I observed last Saturday entering town from the Fulham direction. It was not merely that he looked dead dog gone; that followed as a matter of course from the state of the roads. But he was also so drenched with rain that the water actually ran out of his shoes in streams, while the liquid mud which covered him gave him the appearance of a hedgehog cooked in the gipsy fashion. What took him out on such an awful day? I am sure that if he had been a member of the noble band of martyrs he would make it a point to ride a given number of miles every day in the year.

The cycling concert season having pretty well come to an end, it affords me much pleasure to report that, thanks largely to the sweet community of soul with soul brought about by these entertainments, many young men and maidens have resolved to start matrimonial societies. There may, perhaps, be some cynics who will deprecate the prospect of a matrimonial society, but I think that married life is a lottery with many blanks and few prizes. That may or may not be the case; my duty begins and ends with recording that Dan Cupid's favourite vehicle nowadays seems to be the cycle. He would look rather odd on one, all the same.

The Osborne C.C. give a Cinderella dance at Lamb's Assembly Rooms, 157, Blackfriars-road on Friday, 28th inst., when a full attendance is anticipated. Tickets—single, 1s. 6d.; double, 2s. 6d., can be obtained from Mr. C. C. Paul, 3, Frentle-street, Old Kent-road. As it promises to be a very pleasant evening, the Osborne has achieved a reputation for good management—I shall endeavour to avail myself of the club's kind invitation.

## A QUESTION OF RATING.

In a divisional court of the Queen's Bench on Thursday, Mr. Page applied for a rule calling upon the justices of the County of London and the overseers and churchwardens of the parish of Lambeth to show cause why the justices should not state a case for the opinion of the High Court as to whether they were right in holding that the South-Western Railway Company were bound to pay rates upon two communicating houses in Waterloo-road, of which there was no beneficial occupation. The houses were occupied by a caretaker. Their lordships said that the justices had the law to enforce, and must enforce it against the railway company as well as against other people. If it was a question of beneficial occupation, the proper course was to appeal against the rate. The application was refused, with the intimation that if there were any further facts the affidavits might be amended, and another application made.

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**ST. JAMES'S HALL, PICCADILLY.**

le has an excellent candidate, the Unionists  
Mr. Graham, the Separatists in Mr. Bolton.  
his election will, therefore, be an important



indication of the state of opinion all over the country on the supreme topic of the day—the report of the Farnell Commission. The electors will, in reality, be asked to say whether the Government of Ireland should or should not be handed over to a party, many of the members of which have been found guilty of criminal conspiracy and other serious offences. Let every Unionist, therefore, do his duty. That duty consists not merely in going to the poll, but in doing genuine hard work for the cause before the election comes on. By repeatedly putting the true issues of the contest before friends and acquaintances, and by stirring up the sluggish to realise the importance of the struggle, the victory can be and ought to be won. But it will not be won unless every individual Unionist joins in the fray with might and main.

With the issue of the official report of the South Metropolitan Gas Company, the curtain finally falls upon what we may call the tragedy of the Gas Stokers' Strike. For a tragedy, indeed, it was. What harm, one naturally asks, have the gas stokers done to the company, as against the harm they have done to themselves? Well, they have cost the company about £50,000 in direct expense, and perhaps half as much more indirectly. The result to the shareholders has been a reduction of their dividend from 13½ (or it might have been 13½) per cent. to 12 per cent. That is absolutely all; and that is a mere flea-bite to a company which pays such dividends as those. On the other hand, what have the unlucky stokers lost themselves? The answer is terribly simple. The majority of them have lost everything. Thrown out of permanent employment at good money by the insolent folly of their self-appointed leaders, the poor fellows are in a sorry plight, indeed. The only consolation, to the public, in the matter is the warning which trade union leaders and their followers have received, and which will, we hope, deter them effectually from similar disastrous blunders in the future. But that will not help the stokers back to work and wages.

## HOW TO GET PAUPERS TO CHURCH.

### A Curious Letter.

The following extraordinary epistle, addressed to the chairman, caused great amusement at a meeting of the Richmond Board of Guardians on Thursday:—"The Hermitage, Barnes, February 19th.—Dear Sir,—The small number of inmates attending the Sunday services at the Richmond Union Workhouse Chapel is a deplorable fact, and the guardians have acted wisely in discussing the subject and suggesting means for an improvement of the present condition of the inmates. I have no desire to interfere in any way with your chaplain, though I would be glad to help him in making his congregation more numerous. With that view I beg to make application for the post of assistant chaplain, which I am willing to fill without any fixed salary. I have had considerable experience in reforming the worldly, and I believe I could solve the great problem which is now troubling the guardians. I only ask for payment by results. If there are 300 inmates, I think in the course of a few months I could get 250 of them at the Sunday services. I would only stipulate that the guardians should pay me 4d. per head for every addition to the present number regularly attending the chapel, with an extra 1d. per head for each case in which I bring a Roman Catholic to the Established faith. I would also undertake to make the musical services attractive if the guardians would allow me to put the best singing inmates in surplices, which the lady visitors might make for them. I would, with your permission, introduce full choral service, with an occasional orchestral accompaniment. This I could make easy, as one of my sons plays the organ, and the other the other while my daughters are proficient in the 'cello, the cornet, and the double bass. I can also do a little on the trombone, and I would willingly undertake the conductorship. I do not doubt that in a very little time, with bright and cheerful services, I could bring the whole of the inmates to chapel regularly. As a minister of the Establishment I am very anxious to commence my duty forthwith, and shall be glad if you will lay my letter before the guardians at their next meeting, feeling assured that my inexpensive offer will be gladly accepted. Believe me, yours very truly, FRANK THOMAS McCULLUM."—The guardians declined the offer with thanks.

## EXTRAORDINARY OUTRAGE AT YOUGHAL.

It was reported to the police at Youghal on Thursday that a large quantity of salmon was being taken from the Blackwater river and used in fishing on the Blackwater river and in Youghal Bay, while drying on the Mill Wall were maliciously cut in pieces and scattered about in all directions. The cause is assigned for the outrage, the result of which is to throw out of employment a large number of men by the suspension of the fishing, which opened only on the 15th inst. The police are using every effort to trace the perpetrators.

### THE LATE MR. BIGGAR.

A meeting of the Irish parliamentary party was held in one of the committee rooms of the House of Commons on Thursday evening, to make final arrangements in connection with the funeral of Mr. Biggar. The deputation which was appointed on Wednesday to confer with the relatives of the deceased, reported that the family were averse to the idea of a public funeral in Dublin suggested. It was further stated that the remains would be interred at Belfast.

### A WIFE'S GRIEVANCE.

The case of Fisher v. Fisher was before Sir James Hannen in the Divorce Court on Thursday. It was the wife's petition for a judicial separation on account of the misconduct of her husband. There was also an allegation of cruelty, but that was not pressed. The petitioner being a Roman Catholic, and only praying for a judicial separation. The petitioner was the daughter of an English farmer, and of a French lady, and was married to the respondent in 1877, in London, she being then under twenty-one years of age. The respondent was a captain in a Border regiment. Immediately after the marriage he gave way to habits of intemperance. In 1889 she obtained proof of his misconduct, and instituted the present proceedings. Shortly after the marriage she came into some money, at her mother's death. This she gave to her husband, who used it for his own purposes, and kept her very short of money. In August last year she went to the Bedford Hotel, Brighton, to meet him; but owing to a communication made to the manager of the hotel she went to the Queen's Hotel, also in Brighton, where she remained the night. On the following morning her husband came to her, and said that he had passed the night with another woman, to whom he had given £10. She had never since then cohabited with him. He was once in an asylum for a short time. Nellie Cameron, living in Brighton, was called, and stated that Captain Fisher stayed for three days in her house in August last, and passed the night with her on each occasion. He gave her a cheque for £10, which was afterwards dishonoured. She subsequently saw him in reference to this matter. She recognised a photograph produced as that of Captain Fisher. There was no defence, and his lordship pronounced a decree of judicial separation, giving the petitioner the custody of the two children of the marriage.

## THE WEST HAM MURDER.

### The Inquest.

Mr. C. C. Lewis, coroner for South Essex, opened the inquest on the body of Amelia Sarah Jeffe, aged 28 years, who was found murdered in an occupied house, No. 126, Portway, under circumstances previously reported. The court was inconveniently crowded, and some sensation was excited as the articles of clothing worn by the victim were placed on the table. Special note was taken of the scarf with which her death was effected, and her boots. The latter had only been worn a few days before she was missed, and had prominent plate heels, by which it would be easy to trace any impression. Outside the court a large crowd gathered chiefly composed of women. The coroner said they were enquired to inquire into a most dastardly, ferocious, and abhorrent crime. He felt sure they would spare neither time nor trouble in endeavouring to trace the perpetrator of so horrible and atrocious an offence. The jury retired to view the body, which lay in the neighbouring mortuary, and also to inspect the house and its surroundings in which the body was discovered. Charles Albert Jeffe, of 38, West-road, West Ham, said: I am a machinist in the employ of the London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Company at their Playistoy Works. The deceased was my daughter and would be 15 on the 12th of next month. I last saw her alive at half-past six o'clock on Friday, the 31st of January. She was then at home. At that time she was sent out to buy some fish at a shop in Church-street. She was quite well, and in good spirits. She had often been to the shop she was sent to, and it would take her about half an hour to go there and back. She did not return. In consequence of her failing to do so I went to the fish shop about half-past seven. Finding she had not returned there, I returned home and told my wife that Minnie had never reached the shop. After that I made a further search for her, but without success. That same evening the fact that she was missing was reported to the police at the West Ham Police Station. I heard no more of her until the 14th inst., about half-past one, as near as possible. I received information that her body had been found in an empty house in Portway, and had been removed to the mortuary at West Ham. I went there at once, and identified her body. She left school about twelve months ago, and had remained at home since, with the exception of the period between April and September, when she stayed with her aunt at Weston-super-Mare, Somerset. She was also engaged for one month with Mrs. Knox as a nurse girl. She left simply because her mother was near her confinement, and required her assistance. —The Coroner:

### Had She any Acquaintances.

either male or female, that you are aware of?—Witness: I am not aware of any whatever, nor am I aware that she received any letters, or had any correspondence with any one. Had you any particular rules with regard to your domestic arrangements? Did you allow any late at night?—Yes, sir, I had particular rules. I never allowed her out late at night. She was my oldest child. Do you identify the basket produced with the latchkey as your property?—Yes; that is the identical basket she took with her on the night she was missing. By Mr. Atkinson: The night she was missing was very dark and damp. She was a member of Canon Scott's Sunday school. The road is very badly lighted. Since she was missed another lamp has been added to the thoroughfare close to the house, where she was found. The coroner asked that the whole of the clothing, including the scarf, was that which the child wore on the night in question. He also identified the brooch, which was found on the stairs of the house in Portway-road, as belonging to his wife. By Mr. Atkinson: On the day in question the deceased had been engaged in housework, and went out in the clothing she wore in the house. She was of a shy disposition. She went out at 6.30. Witness did not notice any suspicious character; in fact, he did not think of it. In consequence of something that passed between him and his wife he suggested that the empty houses should be searched. That was on the following Saturday, the 1st of February. Witness saw the watchman, and spoke to him about searching the houses. The watchman said he could not get into two or three of the houses, because he had not got the keys. No. 126 was included among the latter. —The Coroner: Did you go over any of these houses?—Witness: I went over only one, namely, 122, the second house near home. Why did you not go over the others?—Because the watchman told me the others were locked, and no one could possibly get into them. Nothing in particular was said about No. 126, where the child was found. —A Juror: I should have thought, under the circumstances, the watchman or caretaker would have assisted you to get into any of the houses. —Elizabeth Harmer, a little girl, said she lived at 16, West-road. She knew Amelia Jeffe. She saw her out in the street on the night she was missing. Witness was standing in the street outside No. 30, West-road, when Amelia came along. Witness asked her where she was going, and she said, "Near West Ham Church." She was then by herself and went on. She had the basket (produced) with her. Witness first heard she was missing about eleven o'clock the same night. Witness did not see any men loitering about the time she met her. Witness had never seen her walking out with any young man. By Mr. Atkinson: Witness was talking to her near her house for three minutes. When she passed near her she saw no one about. —By the Coroner: That night, about eleven o'clock, witness was in Mrs. Bowles's shop, and then heard that Minnie was lost. —Mr. Jeffe, re-called, in answer to the coroner, said he had forgotten to state that before the deceased went to Weston-super-Mare she was in the service of a Mrs. Harvey as nurse-girl for a few weeks. She left because her mistress wished her to remain in all day on Sundays. —By the Jury: My girl never attended any balls or dances, or parties except once at a temperance meeting in connection with the church.

### The Police Evidence.

—Sergeant F. Forth said: On the 14th inst. Police constable Cross and myself commenced a search the unoccupied houses in the district, beginning at the Portway. Finding that the doors of several houses, including 126, were locked, we went and saw Mr. Roberts, senior, the caretaker. He then accompanied us to 126. We found some of the front doors open. He said he could not let us go into 126 as he hadn't got the key; he never had had it. Police-constable Cross then got over the back and gained admittance that way. He let me in by the front door. Mr. Roberts also entered. Cross went down into the cellar with a light, and went upstairs. I searched each room as I went up, but saw nothing to excite my suspicion. When on the landing at the foot of the top stairs I found a penny, and upon the top landing I found the brooch produced. I went into the front room. I saw on the floor there signs as if something had been dragged, leading from the floor to the window. The dust had been moved. I opened the cupboard door, which was not buttoned, but the door was closed. The body was lying just inside, back towards me. The left knee was just exposed, but the head could not be seen. The child's knees were slightly drawn up. I called to Police-constable Cross. On getting a light we saw it was the body of the missing girl. Finding she was dead I gave instructions not to move her. I then reported the case at the station. Dr. Grogono, the divisional surgeon, attended, and the body was removed to the mortuary. The basket was also lying in the cupboard at the top of her head, and her hat was lying on the top of the basket. All her other clothes were on the next day I blood stains on the deceased's boots with two prints, apparently heel prints, in the dust on the floor, and they corresponded. There was another half penny found upon the third stair from the top. There has never been a fastening to the

lower end of the kitchen window. We made a thorough search of the house, but only found a broken piece of cord in the top back room and a broken key pipe (produced). —By Mr. Atkinson: I had noticed that the doors were generally open. The caretaker used a separate key for each house. There was also one other house of which the caretaker had the key. The caretaker tried to open No. 126 with all his keys, but failed to do so. At the back of the house there were three palings missing, leaving sufficient space for any one to get through with ease. Having entered the house, we found the whole of the doors open. I found the penny and the brooch before I found the body. The coin was about eight stairs up. I saw no footmarks traceable to any man. I traced the dragging from the door to the window, but not from the window to the cupboard. —Inspector Thomson observed that it was the intention to search all houses that were open in the event of any one being reported missing. —The same course was pursued in this case. —Inspector Willey: There were no marks of any kind on the clothing, and, as to the jacket, that was unbuttoned after the body had been removed to the mortuary. As to the scarf, that has also been recognised by the father.

### Medical Testimony.

—Dr. Grogono, divisional surgeon of police, said: On the 14th, just before twelve o'clock, I was called to see the body of the deceased at 126, Portway. I was accompanied by Inspector Thomson. In the top front room I saw the body by the aid of a constable's lantern. I then had the body removed into the room, and there closely examined it. The deceased had been cruelly assaulted. There was a mark of constriction around the throat. The scarf produced was folded round her throat, but not tied. She had been bleeding from the nose and mouth. I then had the body removed to the mortuary and carefully examined it externally. There was a slight bruise on the left knee, and she had sustained serious injury in the abdomen, great violence having been used. The face was swollen and the pupils were dilated. In the constriction round the throat there were parallel lines corresponding with the woollen scarf. The tongue was swollen and pressed tightly against the teeth. The same day I made a post mortem examination. The cause of death was suffocation, caused by strangulation. The general appearance was consistent with death having taken place on the 31st January. —The Coroner: I think, gentlemen, this will be a convenient opportunity to adjourn. An intimation has been made to me about a reward, and at your request I will communicate with the Home Secretary. As regards the West Ham Corporation, I think it better that several of you should form yourselves into a committee, and so approach them on this point. —A Juror: I shall have much pleasure in handing you a cheque for £25 in the possible event of making up £100 as a reward to discover the perpetrator of such a diabolical deed. —Another Juror: And I shall have much pleasure in subscribing five guineas towards the sum named. —The coroner, after expressing his thanks for the ready manner in which the gentlemen came forward, adjourned the inquest to Monday, March 3rd.

### Another Missing Girl.

The metropolitan police are now endeavouring to discover the whereabouts of a young girl whose mysterious disappearance from her situation at Highgate is causing great anxiety to her friends. The name of the girl is Grace Terrell, and her age 15 years. Her parents reside at Woodview Cottages, Muswell Hill, and she was in a situation in the Archway-road, Highgate. One evening last week she had permission from her mistress to go home for an hour or two, and did not go home, however, neither did she return to her situation, and up to the present no tidings have been received of her whereabouts. It is hoped that publicity being given to the case in the press may lead to news being received by her parents or the police at Highgate of what has become of her. She is described as being of fair complexion, hair and eyes dark brown, has an impediment in her speech, and limps on her right leg. At the time of leaving her situation she was wearing a black dress, a black short jacket, green felt hat trimmed with plaid ribbon, and buttoned boots.

## THE FATAL ASSAULT IN THE BOROUGH.

### Inquest and Verdict.

Mr. S. F. Langham held an inquest at Gur's Hospital on the circumstances attending the death of Alfred Howie, aged 39, a hawker, lately living in Market-street, Southwark, who was killed during a quarrel with a salesman named Lamb, on February 15th. —Lamb has been arrested, and now stands remanded from the Southwark Police Court, charged with causing the death of deceased. —Mr. Bealey, barrister, represented the accused; and Inspector G. H. Symens, M. Division, attended on behalf of the police. —John Blackman, of Rookingham-street, S.E., deposed that he was a salesman in the Borough market. He was in question there were standing together in the market. As the deceased was passing, Mr. Lamb touched him on the shoulder with his umbrella and said, "Remember what you have been saying to me to-day. I will see you to-morrow. I will not take a liberty with you while you are drunk." Deceased then rushed at him to strike him back. He struggled to get away, but was prevented for some time. When eventually he did get off, he rushed at the accused to assault him. At the time Mr. Lamb raised his umbrella to ward off the blow, and as deceased came on he fell forward on to the umbrella point. The man was so drunk that he could hardly stand alone, and witness believed it was his drunken condition which caused him to fall. Lamb did not in any way attack the deceased, but only used his umbrella to defend himself. The deceased was of very drunken habits, and always ready for a row. He was willing to fight anybody who would fight him. Mr. Arthur Crowe, house surgeon, deposed that the deceased was admitted at five p.m. on February 15th, suffering from two wounds on the left eye. He was unconscious, and remained so till his death. A further examination showed that the eye was pushed forward and the pupil paralysed. The other organs were healthy, and there were no other marks. The cause of death was injury to the brain, which injury could have been produced by a prod from an umbrella. —The jury returned a verdict of death from misadventure.

### THE RIGHTS OF LANDLORDS.

At the Board of Trade on Thursday, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach received a deputation of cotton spinners, introduced by Sir William Houldsworth, M.P., whose object was to secure, through parliamentary action, the abolition of the landlords' claim to priority of rent. —In reply, Sir M. Hicks-Beach said the case of the deputation divided itself under two very different heads; first, the general law of distress; and, secondly, the special hardships arising from its action in their trade. Certainly he could not say anything in favour of the abolition of the law, which was more favourable to the tenant than for the landlord. He agreed, however, that the law ought not to be abused, and some of the cases cited certainly were abuses of the law. He would like to see the matter brought before Parliament by the members for the cotton spinning districts before he put it before the Government. He would, in the meantime, give the question his closest attention. —The deputation proceeded to the Home Office to interview the Home Secretary on the same subject.

A bill has been introduced by Mr. A. C. Morton, Captain Verney, Mr. John Leng, and Mr. John Pinkerton to reduce the qualifying period for Parliamentary voters from twelve to three months, without in any way altering the existing law, and repeal the clauses which make it obligatory that the poor rate should be paid on or before January 1st.

## THE RECENT GAS STRIKE.

### Report of the South Metropolitan Directors.

The report of the directors of the South Metropolitan Gas Company for the half year ended the 31st of December last, which will be presented at the meeting on the 25th inst., states that the working of the half year, but for the exceptional disturbance caused by the labour agitation, would have been of the usual character—showing a good increase of business, satisfactory working in all departments, and, notwithstanding an advance in the price of coke, the board would probably have proposed that the dividend should be raised from 13½ to 13½ per cent., in place of the 12 per cent. which, for reasons which they set forth, they feel it their duty to recommend. The report proceeds:—Previously to June last the work in the retort-house was done by a day and a night gang dividing the twenty-four hours into two shifts; but great misapprehension exists as to the nature of the work and the time the men were engaged upon it. Six "draws" were a day's work, each occupying about three-quarters of an hour. The men beginning work at six a.m., would do their last draw at four p.m., and finish their day's work before five o'clock, having five intervals of over an hour each for meals and rest during the day. The pay of stokers ranged from 5s. 2d. to 5s. 7d. a day of about six hours' work, with 1s. 6d. a week as good-time money, a week's holiday with double pay in the summer, and provision for sickness and old age. (At three of the stations the new men have by an almost unanimous vote elected to work on the two-shift system.) The agitation for an alteration began last March, but it did not extend to the stokers employed by the company until June, when they then requested that their work should be done in three shifts of eight hours each; the men to do more work per hour, but considerably less in the shift, than before, the intervals for meals and rest being reduced to about twenty-five minutes in each hour, with no reduction of pay. This was agreed to, increasing the carbonising wages quite 25 per cent., and, although the men did not get so great a reduction of work as asked for, they expressed themselves more than satisfied with the liberality of the directors. Objections, however, were soon made. "This or that arrangement was not in accordance with the 'rules of the union,'" and as each point was of comparatively small importance, further concessions were made. These, added to very careless working on the part of the men, resulted in the total cost of retort-house labour being increased 45 per cent., or nearly £40,000 a year, which is equal to a charge of 3d. per 1,000 cubic feet in the price of gas. This is the expected will be recovered in the course of time by the adoption of machinery and new systems of carbonising, whereby a large amount of labour will be unnecessary; but some immediate improvement is looked for from the better spirit and the willingness to work well and honestly manifested by the new men.

### The Result of the Dock Strike.

After the settlement with the stokers the great dock strike took place, and the directors state that a determination was then shown to compel every man in the company's service to join the Gas Workers' and General Labourers' Union. On the 5th of September letters were received from the general union of dockers stating in effect that those men who were not members of the union would be allowed to work; the reinstatement of a stoker discharged for intimidation was demanded; and the directors yielded on the stokers threatening to leave in a body. Then preparations were actively but quietly made to meet the contingency of a strike by the erection of sleeping rooms and the laying in of food and fuel. This action, the directors believe, prevented the men from proceeding to a strike in October on the demand for double time on Sundays. The directors introduced the bonus or profit-sharing scheme on the 6th of November with the sole object of attaching the men to the company and securing their interest in its working. —The events which followed the refusal of this by the stokers are reviewed, and the steps taken to obtain men from the provinces are described. The managers and foremen had to teach and set to work 3,000 men, most of them being strangers to each other and to the work. The dock stokers made on the 4th of December the day before they gave notice, 27,394,000 ft. of gas; but the make on their last day, the 12th of December, was only 23,197,000 ft. The new men on their first day made 13,431,000 ft., and gradually improved. The smallest quantity of gas sent out on a week day was 16,944,000 cubic feet on Monday, the 16th of December, whereas the ordinary consumption would have been about 27,000,000 ft., and the lowest stock in the gas-holders was 7,002,000 ft. at midnight on the 14th of December. The directors acknowledge the help given them by the railway companies, and the assistance of the police in preserving order. Many of the new men, especially those obtained by labour agents, were not of much use, and large numbers were either discharged, left of their own accord, or were induced to leave by the strikers. Consequently for two months fresh men were constantly being brought from the country, thus delaying the resumption of regular working, but the strikers proved that the company can command, and number of capable men. The directors assure the new men who have stood by the company that their conduct and services are most thoroughly appreciated, and that they may rely upon the directors being true to them so long as they do their duty.

### The Cost of the Strike.

The direct cost has been very heavy probably not less than £50,000—while the indirect expenses and losses may amount to about half that sum in addition. The board recommends that half the direct cost to the 31st of December should be met by the insurance fund, and the other half from the dividend, leaving to the reserve fund the indirect losses which, with the undivided balance brought forward, has also to meet the rise in the price of coals and the large increase in wages which has taken place quite apart from the strike. The reserve fund exists to meet emergencies of all kinds, and the board would not hesitate in all ordinary cases so to use it. But looking at these entirely exceptional and unprecedented circumstances, the board considers that the right course is to recommend the proprietors to meet part of the expenses by reducing the dividend to 12 per cent.

### THE O'SHEA DIVORCE CASE.

The case of O'Shea v. O'Shea and Parnell came before Mr. Justice Butt on Wednesday. This was an application for attachments for contempt against Mr. Tuohy, the London representative, and Mr. John Porter, the printer and publisher of the Dublin Freeman's Journal, for publishing comments on the petition that had been presented to the court by Captain O'Shea for the dissolution of his marriage, and in which Mr. Parnell was made respondent. Applications to the same effect had been applied for in the case of the Star and the New York Herald, but the decision in the latter two cases stood over until his lordship gave his decision in the case of the Freeman's Journal. —The Solicitor-general, Sir E. Clarke, said he had now to apply for attachments against the persons mentioned. The article of which he complained appeared in the Freeman's Journal on the 4th of January, 1890, and, in his opinion, was calculated to prejudice the petition of Captain O'Shea before the court for trial before a jury in that court. The learned gentleman having read the articles in the Freeman's Journal, which made some very strong comments on the action of Captain O'Shea, submitted that it was a clear and deliberate contempt, and the comments were mixed up with political allusions, greatly to the injury of Captain O'Shea. The learned gentleman suggested that the articles should be taken down, and he respectfully submitted that Captain O'Shea was entitled to the protection of the court. —The Solicitor-general was about to read an article

that appeared in the Freeman's Journal on the 9th of January, which, he said, aggravated the charges made in the article of the 4th, when Sir E. Russell contended that as no notice had been given of objection to the article of the 9th, his learned friend was not entitled to refer to it. Mr. Justice Butt thought, under all the circumstances, the Solicitor-general was entitled to read the article, which he accordingly did, and submitted that the contempt which had already been committed. —The Solicitor-general also read long affidavits made by Mr. Tuohy and Mr. Porter, each of whom denied that they were in any way responsible for the management of the Freeman's Journal, the latter in addition setting out that the court had no jurisdiction so far as he was concerned. He then urged that that which had been done was in the highest degree scandalous, and therefore he had to apply for such punishment of the parties who had been guilty of the contempt as would deter others from repeating the offence.

## The Case Against the "Freeman's Journal."

Sir C. Russell said he appeared for the Freeman's Journal Company, Mr. Tuohy, and Mr. Porter, to oppose the application of his learned friend. He drew attention to the fact that Captain O'Shea first of all furnished particulars to the London newspapers of the proceedings he had instituted for divorce against his wife and the review of the proceedings. Some of the comments of the Freeman's Journal, he admitted, were severe, but Captain O'Shea's questionable taste in unbosoming himself to a newspaper reporter about his wife's imputed dishonour invited them. He quite admitted that some of the comments made in the Freeman's Journal ought not to have been made—that he was bound to admit. The temptation was great; but he said that the comments were not made with a view of prejudicing the result in the petition for divorce, and he felt quite certain that they would not be repeated. He submitted that the proper persons had not been served, that the process for attachment had not been misconceived, and further that the court had no jurisdiction against an Irish limited company or over the publisher of a newspaper in Dublin. —Mr. Justice Butt said surely if a man wrote a libellous letter in Dublin and published it in London, and he came within jurisdiction, he could be served. —Sir C. Russell admitted that; but in this case his contention was that the wrong persons had been served. He submitted that the motion could not prevail, for the reason he had stated—that the right person had not been served—the secretary of the company being the proper person to be cited, that the court had no jurisdiction as regarded matters which took place in Dublin, and that no ground existed for granting the attachment asked for. —Mr. Justice Butt said that the London representative of the Freeman, no proof of his liability had been given. —The Solicitor-general, in reply, contended that the notice of motion had been rightly framed in all its parts, and that the company and persons cited were liable to conviction for the offence he insisted they had undoubtedly committed.

### Judgment.

His lordship, in giving decision, said it was his duty to protect suitors in that court. He was asked to grant writs of attachment against the Star, the New York Herald, and the Freeman's Journal, for publishing comments on a suit pending in that court. It was no part of his duty to express an opinion on matters of good taste, or as to the way in which editors should conduct their papers, nor as to the good or bad taste of Captain O'Shea in allowing the representative of a paper to interview him on such a subject. He very much regretted that any one of the articles should have been published. All comments on pending suits were undesirable. Although he had really nothing to do with the question of taste, sitting there he did to add nothing to the law to the best of his ability, it was his duty to protect suitors in that court against comments, statements, and observations in newspapers tending to prejudice them. He thought the paragraph in the Star went unpleasantly near suggesting Captain O'Shea would turn out no better than Pigott in cross-examination, but it did not say so in those terms. He should therefore not be justified in according to the application against the Star. As regarded the New York Herald, he did not think the article was inspired to have a prejudicial effect; therefore he must refuse the application against that paper. Coming to the Freeman's Journal, there were three motions against that paper. He dismissed those against the company and the publisher, but as to Mr. Tuohy, he had come to the conclusion that he was responsible manager of the London office. He, therefore, condemned him to a fine of £100, and further, he ordered him to pay the costs of the proceedings. The writ of attachment would lie at the office for fortnight, when it would be issued if the fine and costs were not paid.

## THE ALLEGED POLITICAL INTIMIDATION OF WORKMEN.

At the half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the London and North-Western Railway Company held on Thursday, Sir E. Moon, who presided, said the dividend for the half-year had been spoiled by the accident which had occurred, which had wiped off the reserve fund set aside for the purpose, and the increase in price had been against the shareholders. Under the circumstances, he thought that they ought to be satisfied with the additional 1 per cent. dividend, and the carrying over of £14,000 to the next account. He moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. John Pares Bickersteth. —Mr. Tomkinson moved, as an amendment to the report, that inasmuch as serious charges have been made against officials of the company in the Crewe works to the effect that they had dismissed some of the workmen, and tried to intimidate date others because they were active Liberals, it was desirable that a public inquiry by some impartial person or persons should be held in Crewe to investigate the charges. —Mr. William Hodgson, of Crewe, seconded the amendment. —The chairman said that was the first time that political matters had been introduced into their meetings, and he hoped it would be the last. There had been other unfounded complaints, as they had been accused of stopping the train at Chester and Crewe to allow Mr. Gladstone to board. They had also been charged with the Irish papers with boycotting Irish employees. He pointed out that most of those who had made the charges had recently purchased £100 each of stock, which gave them the right to be present. He reiterated that the charges were untrue and unfounded. What was the use of the ballot box if the men did not vote under it? It was nonsense to say there was intimidation. (Cries of "Oh, no.") He denied that there was any intimidation at the Crewe works, and he did not think that any honest workmen in Crewe believed that there was anything of the sort. The directors insisted on the question of the principle of selection, so that the best men might come to the top. He asserted that those who had made the charges were drawing on their imaginations. —On a division thirty-nine voted for the amendment and seventy-three against. The amendment was accordingly lost. —Mr. Schwann, M.P., moved a second amendment, to the effect that as the employees at the Crewe works had been harassed and degraded in the exercise of their political rights, a notice should be placed on the board stating that the employees were not to be interfered with in any way in the exercise of the franchise, and that any official or other person infringing the spirit of that declaration should be liable to dismissal. —Mr. Urquhart seconded this amendment, for which fifty-one voted and 103 against; it was therefore lost.

Joseph Dell, a young man, who has already undergone a sentence of penal servitude for house-breaking, was at the Croydon Borough Police Court remained on a charge of uttering a defamatory libel in payment for a sovereign, with intent to cheat and defraud Edwin Alden, grocer, of 22, London-road, Croydon.



ALL STRUCTURES IN 1944. THE







half frantic with grief, hunted a large towed the recovery of his body, but not a trace of could be found. He may possibly have seized by sharks, whose numbers have been the increase in the Mediterranean since opening of the Suez Canal. The name of

... bringing these prosecutions against him. He  
been summoned eighty-two times, and had  
nearly \$50 in fines and costs. The bench im  
a penalty of 5s. and costs in respect of one ch  
and made an order upon the defendant to

hearty concurrence in that movement led to flight to England, where he resided until general amnesty in 1857. In the constitution the first Hungarian Ministry Andrássy became Prime Minister, and subsequently he filled sev-

forged tickets. The colonel lost no time in lodging a formal complaint, but the worst of massarate was far more impressed with the cleverness of his countrymen than with the loss of the victim. He only held up his hand

don," as asking their friends this question. It was the ques-  
tion asked in this celebrated play "The Private Secretary."  
It was asked now, the reply would undoubtedly be "It is gu-  
gu well now, thank you, since I took the Cowry Liver Pills."  
Agents are **Wardle and Sons, Limited, 53, Farringdon-stre-**  
**1, Oldbail.**



## TURF, FIELD, AND RIVER.

St. LARRY LYN.

Limited as is the area of future event speculation on racing and steeplechasing in our days, there is still sufficient room for too eager punters to burn their fingers both at the legitimate and the illegitimate game. So far from being a Jockey Club rule is concerned, Pioneer taught premature backers a severe lesson in connection with the Lincolnshire Handicap. The money lost over him, however, is insignificant when compared to that which has been dropped over the scratchings of Come Away for the Grand National Steeplechase. Curiously enough, this is the second year that backers have split themselves on a rock over this "Derby of the chase" was attributed to a breakdown in his preparation. His scratching for the Lincolnshire Handicap, next March, according to good Lincolnshire racing authorities, was due to the fact that his former owner's interest in him had not been properly registered according to the new rules of the G.N.H., whilst a secondary cause for the pen being put through his name is stated to be the incomplete registration of his paternity. The while there is no mistake about Come Away's dam Larkway, it is doubtful from whose loins this real good Irish chaser sprang. In the entries for the Grand National he was described as being by Cambuslang, but it is uncertain whether that stallion or the stout Umpire begot him, and if Umpire's name was not mentioned in nominating him for the race, his entry was practically invalid, and had he won, which was more than probable, disqualification would have ensued. Surely the party behind him might have exercised a little common sense, and in sending in this horse's entry have insured against his disqualification. As it is the same gross carelessness which led to Fullerton's victory in the Ayrshire Handicap last September being declared null and void has brought about a similar state of affairs with regard to Come Away. The only difference is that the error with regard to Fullerton was not discovered until after the horse had won, whilst the Come Away muddle has happened fortunately before the horse was allowed to see the post. It seems to me that the scratching of Come Away is of an exceptional character, and if, as is stated, the horse was not entered according to the requirements of the New Rules, his disqualification must have ensued if he had won. In that case backers could never have had a chance of winning, and, according to all that is reasonable, should never have been called upon to pay up.

The case is very like the Ringlet business of some years back, and on that precedent would seem to be paid and look pleasant. Still it is contrary to the second rule of betting, which states distinctly, "In all bets there must be a possibility of win when the bet is made." "You cannot win when you cannot lose," said Admiral Rous, but this Come Away business appears to me to cut up a very one-sided affair, and if backers pay without some grumbling I shall be surprised.

The Grand National this year bids fair to be a very open race. Why Not, who at first monopolized the betting, has given place during the past week to Roquefort. There is not the slightest doubt that if the handsome aptly-named son of Winslow and Cream Chase could be induced to try he would be the crown of the country Derby of the present year of grace, but it is impossible to trust him. A horse that has been overlooked is Lord Coventry, named after one of the old enthusiastic supporters of steeplechasing proper. He is a game, staying hunter, as he has proved by his victories on the flat, over hurdles, and across country. He is lightly weighted, and it would not surprise me if he landed another Old Joe coup.

The Lincolnshire Handicap wagering has begun to assume a reliable kind of aspect. Laureate is doing work that is remarkably suggestive of his being required to battle for Mr. "Jack Hammond" at Lincoln. He has a big weight to carry, and if he wins with 9st. 2lb. on his four-year-old back he will wipe out all previous records. Another colt who is not at all unlikely to shape as a record leveler is Dauntless, who may break the spell which has haunted three-year-olds on the Carlisle since Tomahawk won £25,000 to £300 was booked about this colt at Windsor.

The "many-headed" in the world of sport who will take the trouble to think back and remember what Hanlan, the ex-champion sculler, was in his prime, and compare him to what he is now, will be able to estimate at its true value the real definition of a shattered public idol. After Hanlan had electrified the British public by his defeats of Hawdon and Elliott on the Tyne, we saw no more of him until he was matched to row against the Australian "Cricket" on the Thames. In the meantime, on the other side of the Atlantic, he had smothered Wallace Ross, and exposed the hollow pretensions of the boat-sawyer Courtney. How he defeated Trickett, Laycock, Ross once more, Boyd, Trickett again, and then signed for fresh scullers to conquer is a matter of aquatic history. He had then reached the acme of his fame, and so easily had all his victories been won, that any man who ventured to express a disbelief in his invincibility would, in those days, have been considered a fit candidate for Lancaster House. Hanlan, however, like many a good man, was not invulnerable, and after pulling through a severe attack of typhoid fever his decline commenced. Then came his defeats by Beach, and subsequently by that curiously in-and-out performing sculler, Peter Kemp. This stage of Hanlan's career is what I take leave to call the passing of Hanlan. Now comes the irony of fate which shows up the late champion sculler as a very fine and large sample of "How are the mighty fallen!"

Since poor Seary's death, Hanlan in common with a lot of other scullers has been expressing his own particular readiness to row any man in the world for the championship. In doing so, he has somewhat unwisely managed—to use vulgarism—to hit both O'Connor, of Toronto, Seary's last opponent and his own old protégé, as well as his (Hanlan's) conqueror Beach on the raw. The result is that O'Connor before sailing from San Francisco en route to Australia to meet the best oarsman the Antipodes can produce, offered before he left to beat Hanlan 2 to 1 to any amount that he would row him. Hanlan, however, he liked over any course whilst Beach declares he is so disgusted with Hanlan's bluffing that he has placed a £100 deposit in the hands of a well-known Sydney sporting man to bind a match with Hanlan. If Hanlan accepts, Beach is ready to row him once a month for the next twelve months. And yet, years ago, if O'Connor and Beach had made similar proposals to Hanlan, said proposals would have been regarded as so much aquatic blasphemy.

It has been said—and with some reason—that this old country is a played-out sort of sphere so far as our professional athletic and aquatic champions are concerned, but a very different kind of story has to be told with regard to our amateurs, who for pluck and perseverance can still hold their own with any non-professional foreigner. A splendid instance of this was given in the contest for the Southern Counties Cross Country Championship, decided on Crofton racecourse the other day, the illustrious being James Kibblewhite, of Swindon, who fairly won his spurs as champion under remarkable conditions. It is common knowledge now that Kibblewhite lost one of his shins before completing the ten miles championship, and covered outside country of the very worst kind. The published accounts differ as to how far Kibblewhite had to go from the time he "cast a plate." Putting it at the shortest—say three miles or so—the ordeal of getting over even that portion of the journey, with hedges, ditches, and stony roads to cope with is one which few would care to face. One hears occasionally of such a phrase as "the gamut runner who ever put on a shoe" applied to very lucky winners performers; but what about Kibblewhite the pluckiest of plucky pedestrians, who, in a ten miles race, lost one of his shoes three miles from the finish, stuck to his task with a tenacity which deserves to rank as a far better record than many apocryphal performances which at present figure in specialists' time-tables. Considering the disadvantage under which Kibblewhite laboured in winning the Southern Counties' Championship, the difference of his time, 56min. 57.3sec., in running ten miles, as compared with the time, 53min. 54sec., achieved by W. H. Morton, the winner of the northern championship at Manchester, over the same distance of ground, which has been commented upon to the disparagement of Kibblewhite's performance, is easily accounted for.

Apart from the Waterloo Cup the past week has been a busy one so far as racing under G.N.H. rules is concerned for the saddling-bell has been kept ringing every working day. Sport, however, has been more remarkable for quantity than quality. At the postponed last stage of the Plumpton meeting, The Saint, in the Kingmor Hunters' Steeplechase had a bloodless victory. Marshdale and Crofton, on both of whom odds were batted for the respective races won, but a head victory only was recorded in the first instance. Eight bells, after scoring three victories in succession, was beaten by a short head by Seamer in the Clayton Selling Hurdle Race, and other victors were Acheon and Cameronian. The trainer of Eight Bells was fined one sovereign for running in wrong colours. These incidents are so often happening at small meetings that it is quite time the authorities imposed a heavier fine for such carelessness.

There were good fields at the Doncaster Hunt meeting on the opening day, but class was poor. The first race, the Stapleton Park Steeplechase, was a chapter of accident. The favourite, Sheridan, refused at the ditch out of the straight, and knocked Bangor out of his stride. Spangle and Gherkin likewise refused, and Tiny Little-mouse being the only one to clear the obstacle, had matters all his own way, and brought off a 10 to 1 chance. The other events call for no comment. On the second day Hamlet won his match with Sister Mercy. Odds were betted on him, and when he fell after going half a mile his friends must have wished it rather a mile about. On being remounted he went after his opponent, and caught her, and then Sister Mercy refused, and her jockey, who was the favourite to show her the way over, Hamlet not only did so, but also showed the way to the winning post, which he reached four lengths in front of Mr. Botterill's grey. Mr. C. J. Cunningham won a couple of races on Lottery, the bearer of a dead and gone famous horse's name—did not Lottery win the first Grand National with the celebrated Jem Mason up, and after taking the wall in a flying leap jump the hurdles the tremendous leap of 33ft. and Huron, both of whom were favourites. Bruit d'Or, supposed to be a good thing for the Try Again Steeplechase, had to lower his colours to Sweet Ethel, and Bagman and Vengeance accounted for the other events on the card. In the last race Mr. C. J. Cunningham, who rode Helmet, the third horse, neglected to return and weigh in, and Helmet was disqualified for a place. Mr. Cunningham, like Captain Owen last week, set a bad example to gentlemen riders of less experience by this act of carelessness. These two gentlemen frequently act as stewards at meetings, and they cannot be too careful in attending to these matters. When the younger school of horsemen find such old tried hands guilty of these little transgressions, they are apt to follow suit, for a bad example is always contagious. Captain Owen has apologized, and so, no doubt, will Mr. C. J. C.

The two days meeting at Windsor was not remarkable for particularly interesting sport. With Odalisque out of the way Pretender easily won the Ascot Hurdle Race, and Theon, a strong paddock tip, was beaten by Zetter, when of the Crown Hurdle Race on the opening day, when of course, The Saint won his race. On the second day, after two odds on chances, in Links and Abaddon, had got home, three warm favourites in Trundle Hill—who bolted after the first fence—Cabin Boy and Spendthrift were beaten by Philip Augustus, Longback, and Thaddeus respectively. Coralite, however, brought off a even money chance in the last event.

Jack Kilrain, the American pugilist, although a nice enough young fellow, socially is evidently an over-rated man. We took him as we do most professional fighters across the horizon, very much at his own valuation from the fact he fought Jim Smith. His most recent show last week at San Francisco when he was well beaten in a fight with small gloves with Jim Corbett, a local boxing instructor, makes out Smith's pretensions to championship class—if possible—worse than ever.

Although there was little outside show of public interest in the Waterloo Cup, prior to its decision, an enormous crowd repaired to Aitcar on the opening day to witness the first and second rounds of the great canine tournament. A start was made at Hill House, and trials were run off rapidly. The first round was a confusion of confusion owing to the big crowd. Eventually the sport settled down into a satisfactory groove, but after the Carrs had been worked, disasters rapidly befell the favourites. In the very first course Lecturer went down before Dolon, whilst later, Mespilus, Arithmos, Iroughend, and Knockniny Boy succumbed to the fortune of war. Fullerton performed in brilliant fashion in his first essay, as in a nice short course he went a great pace from slips, and never gave Plemonst a chance except at the last. In the second round, in splendid style. It was known at the eleventh hour that Gwenna was, like her kennel mate, Gladiola, very much afflicted from natural causes. Both came out of the first round in triumphant fashion, as did Scaley and Bonnie Scotland, but the second round proved fatal to Gwenna, Scaley, and Bonnie Scotland, who were beaten by Barere, Monkside, and Black Girl respectively. It was very unfortunate for Sir H. Jardine that Gwenna should go wrong as she is a very clever bitch, and her defeat was a grievous disappointment to the supporters of the Castle Milk kennel. Gladiola, of the formidable trio, alone escaped the second round.

It required some enthusiasm for the sport to go through the second day's coursing on the Aitcar plains. Rain and snow were succeeded by a nasty haze, which considerably interfered with the view of the third round of the Cup, and the general body of spectators had to imagine the brilliant course Fullerton ran with Monkside as it ended in the mist. Pins and Needles ran a fine trial with Dolon, which she won; and Donald O' Kane beat Glenmohr in a pumping course. After the first round of the Cup, in which Donald O' Kane, in a smartly run trial, put out the favourite, Pins and Needles, Downpour beat Smaoel after a course of moderate length, and then Fullerton met Gladiola, and stretching away from the slips at a terrific pace six lengths ahead of the bitch, swept round with the hare, and scored first. Puss was a good one, and stood up well, but Fullerton was with plenty to spare. Green run by beating Lindrick made up with Fullerton, Donald O' Kane, and Downpour the last four.

In charming weather, which was a vivid contrast to that of the preceding day, the Waterloo Cup final was thrashed out on Friday. The ground on which the concluding trials for the "Derby of the Leash" were run has not been used for some years, but no better venue exists in the district.

The company was again a big one, and it is to me personally a pleasing duty to record the fact that throughout the three days' coursing the attendance on the Aitcar Plate has been larger than has been seen for years past. In the fifth round of the Cup Donald O' Kane was easily

beaten by Downpour, and Fullerton had difficulty in disposing of Green Fern. Thus the representatives of Colonel North's and Mr. Trevor's nominations were left to fight out the finish. When they met, a grand hare was found. Fullerton's pace at once took him from slips with a few lengths' lead, and, nearing the hare, the crack staided himself in beautiful fashion, and scored six times consecutively. Downpour now put in two, but Fullerton would not be stalled off, and getting possession, shifted "puss" thrice. Downpour worked the course to the bitter end, but Fullerton was always there, and wound up with a grand win when Downpour killed in the drain. Fullerton thus improved on his last year's victory for Colonel North when, it will be remembered, he divided with his kennel mate Troughend, and confirmed the anticipation of the result given in this column in last Sunday's edition of the People. Had not Gwenna gone amiss it is not improbable that she would have run up.

On the first day of the Manchester Steeplechase Meeting there was a good show of spectators, as many journeyed on from Aitcar to New Barns after the Waterloo Cup, but fields were poor and sport tame. In the absence of the cracks the chief event, the Manchester Steeplechase was won by Young Hopeful, and other finishing cards proved to be Street Road, Leeds, Soper, and Teviot, whilst Lauderdale had a bloodless victory.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[Though every care will be taken to ensure the accuracy of replies, the editor cannot accept any responsibility for accidental errors. Questions requiring to be answered the next week must reach the office by Wednesday morning at latest. Those subsequently received will be answered the following week. Rejected MSS. not accompanied by a stamped address cannot be returned. If a contributor desires his name to appear in connection with any article, he must send it to the editor in a separate envelope, and not mix it with the rest of the correspondence. All questions should be headed "Legal," "Household," "Miscellaneous," or otherwise, in accordance with their specific character, in order to facilitate classification.]

## LEGAL.

A. KNOWLES.—The agreement says it down quite clearly that the letting was for three months only, and that the tenant elected to remain on after that period a month's notice would be required from either party. Consequently the claim does not hold water.

P. F. W.—I do not see that the commission should be paid twice. 2. No; it may be published in book form later.

A. WELLY READER.—As it is in Chancery, the court has to collect the rents.

ONE IN THE DARK.—It is far too complicated a business to conduct a business.

BRAYARD.—There is no other way, unless she obtained a judicial separation, with maintenance, for desertion.

DRAX.—Much would depend upon the conditions on which the husband would consent to the divorce.

COLONIAL.—She must take the name of her husband.

W. H. SQUIRE.—So far as it is possible to understand the affair, the solicitor appears to have acted quite within his legal rights.

PERPLEXED.—I. It can still be served. 2. No, but it must be taken as soon as his address is discovered.

FANAL.—You are bound to execute the agreement, as it is solely your own fault that the clause in question escaped your notice.

FLUNKER.—I. She had no right to make away with any portion of the deceased's estate. 2. Her jewellery is her own separate property.

W. M.—I. You are entitled to a week's notice only. 2. No. Fair play.—Not unless you were unable or unwilling to provide for her with a separate home, and even in that case, proof of her misconduct would be necessary.

B. R.—A. can do so, not the landlord, who, of course, looks to A. for payment.

SIR ROWE.—He would not be liable to any penalty, but you would be. It rests with yourself to take action or not.

FANAL.—If your total income does not amount to £150 per annum, you are exempt; otherwise, you are liable. It is of no consequence whether your means are derived from your husband or any one else.

WONKOR.—I. Do not specify what information you require. All we can advise is that an affidavit order should be applied for as soon as the child is born.

NASS.—Sell them to any one who will buy at a fair price.

ANXIOUS.—As there is evidence to dispute as to the conditions of the tenancy, it would be unsafe to express any opinion without hearing the evidence on the other side.

ANXIOUS (J. O.).—No; it must not be touched, nor would there be any objection to do so, since the surviving executor could not touch the money.

LAVENDER HILL.—Clearly, you supplied the wife at the request of the husband. He is your debtor, therefore, and you must obtain recovery from him.

MISSING SWEET.—The question is as to the ownership of the coat, and on that you say nothing.

ALCESTER.—You are liable to be called upon to contribute to his maintenance.

A. B. C.—I. Much depends upon the terms of the agreement for purchase. 2. Yes, in any case, C. could sue for the arrears. 3. He could detain.

C. T.—If your services were hired by the year at a yearly salary, you cannot be discharged during that period, except for gross misconduct or neglect. But that is not a perfect right to dismiss the employee at any time.

LAWMAN.—You must complete a full month.

ALMADALE.—Employ a solicitor.

COURTESAN.—I. You must pay the doctor's bill if you called him in. 2. Clearly not.

ONE IN A FIX.—You can do nothing, unless you prosecute him for perjury, which, of course, would be a police court case.

HARRY.—It appears to be a legal notice.

X. Y. Z.—I. Until the girl can and does earn her own living. 2. Up to 21.

M. D.—Much too intricate a matter to be dealt with in this column.

Q. B. H.—Write to the trustees.

CLAREBEL.—Being illegitimate, you have no legal claim whatever on the property.

R. B. B.—I. It depends upon the terms of the agreement. If that does not expressly empower the landlord to do the acts of which you complain, you could obtain damages for disturbance.

and a soft cloth; repeat, if necessary, the second time, using water in place of spirits of wine for the first time.

WATER.—It is hardly best in good condition, for it is quite out of season, and wears too crowded just now to give an unreasonable recipe.

X. Y. Z.—We gave a recipe lately, and cannot repeat it, and should hesitate to advise you to use it if you are troubled with a number "on your head; we should say consult a doctor.

GROGGER.—We know of none we can recommend.

QUEST.—Attention to general health will do more for you than anything else.

E. W.—We do not think you could do it successfully.

SOLDIER.—Fuller's earth put on damp and allowed to dry will probably do it.

NO PAIN.—We do not enter into manufacturing questions, and except from that point of view we cannot understand your query.

R. N. V.—Probably the water deposit is the cause of the uneasiness, but to try to remove the incrustation with an acid would be almost certain to injure the pipe. This would be a dangerous matter, and might cause a disastrous explosion. We strongly advise you to cease to use the apparatus until you get a new coil.

THIRTY-THREE.—We do not know of the patent polish you speak of, and cannot tell you where to get it.

MAOUI.—You were quite right to use no soda or washing powder in the water. You may, however, add a little powdered borax in preparing the washing water, as the borax helps to keep the colours. Make a good soap lather in hot water, and allow it to cool to tepid, then wash the frocks as quickly as you can in that. Avoid rubbing in soap as much as possible, and rinse them out at once. This is the best advice we can give you of these pink colours will go, no matter what care you take.

BOOTS.—A little diluted oxalic acid is about the best thing, but we seldom find them look very well after they have been stained.

SALLIE.—Wash them in oatmeal.

## GARDENING.

G. M.—Any ironmonger or dealer in horticultural sundries will procure a lawn mower from any of the best makers. Most of them who do any trade in such machines keep specimens on hand for inspection. There are plenty of good machines in the market now, but we do not recommend dollars.

## NATURAL HISTORY.

W. PRIDMAN.—You might try an artificial foot of some kind, but we have never heard of such being made, and cannot say if it would answer.

NO PAIN.—Of course he should be washed, say, once a fortnight in winter, and oftener in summer.

O. EDWARDS.—Brambling, a winter visitant to this country; two-sparrow, English; hedge-sparrow, English; teal, English; Anas, English; whist, West Africa. All, except the last, are British.

J. KOWARD.—You should let us have letters not later than Wednesday of the week in which you wished them published. The best locality, perhaps, for reptiles in general is the New River, and snakes may be many parts during spring, summer, and early autumn. Look for them generally not far from water. The survey lists are good for vipers.

C. E. W.—Should have been addressed to this department, and not to "Jack Allround." Changing the water depends on the number of fish and the size of the tank, and whether you have water-plants in it or not. Of course, if it gets dirty, or the fish breathe at the top, change at once.

## FINANCIAL.

R. P. T.—They are essentially private businesses, and, therefore, quite outside our purview. In all cases of the sort an intending depositor should ask himself what security is offered for the safety of his money.

H. I.—We know nothing about the concern. 2. Leave it alone.

G. J. C.—As safe as any trustee bank can be.

W. C. A.—There is substantial security in the business itself; quite good as you could get anywhere with the same high rate of interest.

C. SUMNER.—It means that a depositor must not have another account open in a different savings bank.

T. J. DAX.—Many thanks for your remarks. Hold on to the top; it is a right good one, and has more pickings in it. For the future, do not allow yourself to be put off good things by silly schemers.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

T. CHAPMAN.—We do not give recommendations. Any medical man of fair knowledge could treat the disease.

A. F. G.—You are meaning it so hidden that we cannot understand what you wish to know.

W. C. P. D.—He is liable to prosecution at any time.

FRANKLIN.—I. Yes. 2. At the War Office.

R. T.—We have no recollection of any picture exactly corresponding with your description, but the general idea has been treated by artists hundreds of times.

L. W. H. DAY.—Not for desertion alone.

H. R. H.—There is no limitation.

A. G. G.—You are right, but upon a proper representation of the facts to the guardians they might relieve you of the responsibility.

J. GOLDMAN.—It entirely depends upon the rules of the society. Each is governed in such matters by its own code.

D. J. J.—You must limit your acquaintance of legal business, you had better employ a solicitor.

LETTERSTONE.—It is beyond our province to make valuations of properties with which we are entirely unacquainted.

W. J. R.—The Constitutional Year Book gives the classification of the last year as 311 Conservatives, 71 Liberal Unionists, 200 Gladstonites, and 80 Parnellites.

WART.—Not being versed in the "science" of telling fortunes by cards, which we venture to consider an art, we are not in our power to give you the required information. We do not reply by post under any circumstances whatever.

J. N. B.—I. We cannot say what the present number is. 2. He is a trustee of one of the smaller proprietors, a minor, we believe.

A. REGULAR SUBSCRIBER.—The London office of the American consulate is 12, St. Helen's-place, Bishopsgate-street. There is no separate office for California.

PLACUVE.—There are many cheap editions. Consult a bookseller.

V. O.—The machine is both slow and tiring. The speed depends upon the rider.

F. ASKOE.—In December, 1872.

LETTERSTONE.—In 1888. The tale has been re-published in three volumes by Chatto and Windus, and has enjoyed, as it deserved, a large sale.

P. OSBORN.—They are not yet published in England, but you may order them by post.

T. TARRAGE.—The price of old Bradshaws is going up, but the fluctuations are too considerable to admit of a quotation.

DALTON.—Curly.

W. H. HEATHFIELD.—Order them of a bookseller or music dealer.

VIOLET.—There is one of that name in the locality, but it is quite beyond our power to know the characters of all London boys.

P. Y. Y.—We have no claim.

E. NETT.—It can only be obtained from some person entitled to give one. You had better inquire of the secretary.

A. CONSTANT READER.—Address an application to the Secretary, clearly specifying the exact grounds on which it is made.

ANXIOUS.—They always appear in the Gazette and the Army List.

QUEST.—I. No. 2. Yes.

G. E. R.—Your employers might prosecute for a nuisance, but you are powerless as you have no locus standi in the matter.

G. RABBIT.—You are right in both instances.

A. READER.—The "Pioneer." The price varies greatly. If you send us black-lead tracings of both sides, perhaps we may be able to assign an approximate value.

KINGMAN.—To paraphrase your own words, "it would save a great deal of trouble if intending contributors would only look to the correspondence column for replies." We previously declined your offer.

H. H. SMITH.—He can claim any that have been incorporated with the structure in any way.

S. L. H.—There is none in London.

QUEST.—The marriage would be quite legal.

BERNARD JONES.—The "Times" gives full reports of all cases having any public importance.

SERAPHEUS.—As we do not see the appliance, we cannot give any opinion. 2. Yes. 3. Yes.

J. J. R.—Cold bathing might do some good.

L. CANNING.—The average cost of a special license is £2.

E. W. C.—We do not keep a running record of the dimensions of railway engines.

## EXTRAORDINARY SCENE AT A WEDDING.

The Welsh newspapers report an extraordinary scene at Mumbles Head. A wedding was arranged to take place, and the bridegroom and best man arrived in due time at the church where the ceremony was to be performed, but the bride and bridesmaids were not to be seen. After long waiting the friends of the bridegroom went to the home of the bride, but were not permitted to enter the house. It appears that the parents of the bride were strongly opposed to the marriage, and the bride, having dressed for the ceremony, was locked up in her room, while a member of the family mounted guard with a gun at the door, and threatened to shoot any one who should attempt to enter.

The Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society will hold their third exhibition this autumn in the New Gallery.

## A HUGE FORTUNE.

A wonderful story comes from the Department of the Sarthe of a family which has just inherited the enormous sum of nearly £25,000,000! The members of it, however, seem to be numerous, and with cousins of various degrees, for at a preliminary meeting of the fortunate heirs held on Sunday at Saint Christopher, upwards of sixty claimants appeared. The relative who has left all this money behind him died about twenty years ago in America, whither he had sojourned in the service of a French nobleman who was killed during the revolution. His master died on the other side of the Atlantic, bequeathing a vast fortune to his faithful retainer. How the nobleman in question succeeded in coming into the possession of such enormous wealth—unlike the great majority of his fellow-emigrants who languish in misery and want—has not yet been explained, nor do we know how it happened that the family in the Department of the Sarthe was left for twenty years in ignorance of its good luck.

The Royal Humane Society on Wednesday awarded its bronze medal in four cases of saving life from drowning, and also awarded several testimonials.

DR. SOULE'S "HOP BITTERS." OBSERVE. THE HOP BITTERS CO., Limited, in consequence of the numerous imitations of their famous Hop Bitters, have deemed it desirable to bring the names of the original and celebrated SOULE'S HOP BITTERS more prominently before the public, in order to prevent future imitations, and have altered their labels and testimonials accordingly.

THE ORIGINAL AND ONLY GENUINE HOP BITTERS.

HOP BITTERS. If you have a feeling of general lassitude and weakness, are short of breath on every slight effort, and experience feelings of languor and depression, it is a sure sign that your system is suffering from the effects of the Hop Bitters. It will remove it all.

HOP BITTERS. If you have a dry, harsh, and yellow skin, a dull pain in the right side, extending to the shoulder-blade and pit of the stomach, are short of breath, and experience feelings of languor and depression, it is a sure sign that your system is suffering from the effects of the Hop Bitters. It will remove it all.

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## FRIDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

**The Parnell Commission.**  
Lord BRANCHAMPE gave notice for Tuesday next to ask the Government what course they proposed to take in this House with regard to the report of the commissioners appointed under the Special Commissioners' Act, 1888.

**Registration of Land in Ireland.**  
Lord BELMORE asked what were the intentions of the Government on the subject of the registration of land in Ireland.—Lord MONTAGUE believed that a better system of land registration would be a public good.—Earl CAPODOLINI said the Government were fully alive to the importance of the matter.—The House adjourned at 5.30.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## Pigott and Major Le Caron.

Mr. MATTHEWS, in reply to Mr. Labouchere, said he was informed that the only money found on Pigott after his death and brought to this country consisted of a very small sum in silver and copper. A remittance was received by Pigott's housekeeper on February 23rd, 1889, presumably posted by him on the 22nd. It contained a £10 note, which had been paid to Pigott by Mr. Houston in September, 1888; also a £10 and a 45 note, which Mr. Soames had drawn from the bank, one in August and the other in September, 1888.—Mr. LABOUCHERE asked whether the reports of Le Caron to Mr. Anderson, which were paid for with public money and lent to Le Caron, were now in safe keeping; and whether Le Caron had received any further money from the Government since he gave evidence before the late special commission?—Mr. C. GRAHAM wished to know whether Le Caron was employed for the first time by the Government now in power, or passed over by the Government lately in power? (Laughter.)—Mr. MATTHEWS replied that all the material facts were stated by Le Caron in his evidence, to which he would refer the hon. member. As to the first question, the document placed at the disposal of Le Caron was returned to give his evidence, and he was enabled to do so. The answer to the latter part of the question was in the negative.

## Lord Wolseley and the War Office.

Mr. LABOUCHERE asked whether the publication in the current number of *Harper's Magazine* of the article on "The Standard Army of Great Britain," by Lord Wolseley, constituted an infringement of the Queen's Regulations.—Mr. STANBURY said he was of opinion that it did not. Independently of that consideration the Government thought that members of the headquarters staff were bound to abstain from discussing in public questions affecting the War Department. He had been in communication with Lord Wolseley on the subject, and he informed him that the article in question was more than a year old. He was quite sure that it was far from Lord Wolseley's intention to infringe the rule, and the matter would, no doubt, not happen again.

## The Report of the Special Commission.

Mr. CONNELL, the First Lord of the Treasury, whether the Government proposed to take any steps as to the report of the special commission, after the decision of the House had been taken upon the resolution, of which he had given notice.—Mr. W. H. SMITH: The matter has never been raised nor considered by Her Majesty's Government (hear, hear, from the Opposition).—Mr. LABOUCHERE asked whether the Treasury had asked for, and has been furnished with a list of the witnesses before the commission, and if so, with what object?—Mr. JACKSON: No such information has been asked for or furnished to the Treasury, which has no knowledge on the subject.—Mr. LABOUCHERE asked the First Lord of the Treasury for the assurance that a list of the witnesses would be furnished before a vote for expenses was asked for.—Mr. W. H. SMITH: I can scarcely give such an assurance, as we have no information whatever, directly or indirectly.—Mr. LABOUCHERE: Do the Government contemplate paying for any of the witnesses who came before the special commission?—Mr. W. H. SMITH: We don't contemplate paying any expenses or meeting any expenditure when not asked for.—Replying to Mr. Wallace, Mr. W. H. SMITH said he found it probable that the discussion on the subject would not be concluded that evening, and the Government would not ask the House to consider the resolution on Monday. Further, it would be inconvenient to the Irish members that the debate should be entered upon at an early day next week. The circumstances of the case were, in his opinion, urgent; and therefore he proposed to come to some understanding in course of the evening as to the day on which the debate would be taken, and would make a statement before the adjournment of the House as to the result. It would be possible to take supply in the course of next week—supplementary estimates—and in that event he would have to give notice to the House to give facilities. For the debate on the motion he should probably sit Monday, the 3rd of March, but he desired to meet the convenience of hon. members.—In answer to Mr. Healy, Mr. W. H. SMITH stated that he could not let next week pass without taking some supply.

## THE ADDRESS.

Mr. J. ROWLANDS resumed the debate on Mr. Stansfeld's amendment in favour of introducing a measure for establishing parochial councils. He wanted the whole scheme of London local government perfected.—Mr. WHITMORE wished it to be understood that Conservative members were quite as anxious as others that district councils should be formed, and that other systems should be perfected. He hoped that when large displacements took place through street improvements or the action of landowners, there would be some power under which adequate provision should be made for the poor.—Mr. BARTLEY said there was a burning desire on the part of Radical members to get the gas and water under the control of the County Council. Ten years ago those very gentlemen prevented the interests being bought up by a Conservative Government at a price immensely less than that now proposed.—Mr. BRITTON said the question included in the amendment was sufficient for a whole session, and the measures proposed would form no meagre programme for the whole Parliament. (Hear, hear.) He was struck with the fact that when in opposition, Radical members desired to press forward measures to which they entirely objected when in power.—Mr. CAMPBELL BANNERMAN expressed a hope that the question of Scotch allotments would be dealt with this session.—The House divided, with the following result:—

For the amendment ..... 184  
Against ..... 251

## Free Education.

Mr. A. AGLAND moved an amendment to the Address in favour of free education being given to England. He contended that if the Government were wise they would give to the working classes a national and progressive system of education based upon the common sense and common good will of all classes.—Mr. S. BUXTON supported the amendment.—Sir R. TEMPLE opposed it, and praised the voluntary school system in England as one of the chief glories of our institutions. He maintained that the remission of fees would entail a heavy burden upon the exchequer, as well as a great loss to the national resources, and stated that the principles advanced by the mover of the amendment were radically unsound.—Sir W. HART DYKE contended that what was more or less a desirable operation for Scotland would be one of great perplexity and difficulty for England. Roughly speaking, if free education were adopted the immediate financial result would be an additional charge

schools alone. But the large financial question was the cost of school buildings. If the Government closed the voluntary schools and supplied their places by board schools, it would require £225,000,000. That was a matter that could not be hurriedly undertaken by the Government, and he therefore asked the House to oppose the amendment.—Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN congratulated the House on the advance that had been made recently on the subject of free education. It formed a part of the unauthorised programme when Mr. Gladstone four years ago relegated it to the dim and distant future as not within the region of practical politics. Now the Opposition was practically unanimous in favour of free education; and the Conservative party were pledged by the declaration of the Prime Minister, and by the declaration of Ministers in the House to the establishment of free education at the earliest possible date. He taunted the Gladstonites on their sudden conversion, and said that if a free education system was at once carried out it would involve a capital charge of over £400,000,000, and an addition to the present rates of £1,680,000. He did not believe that the Government had the opportunity of dealing with this question this session, as the Opposition would give them time. (Cheers.) As the amendment involved the existence of the Government he should vote against it. (Cheers and laughter.) After some remarks from W. Harcourt, Mr. E. STANBURY replied on behalf of the Government, stating that the only Government in this country that ever did anything for free education was the present one. They adhere to all that Lord Salisbury had said, and declared that they would consider the question of free education in connection with other great branches on the subject of education. After some remarks from Mr. J. MORLEY, the House divided:—

For Mr. AGLAND's amendment ..... 163  
Against ..... 223

Majority against ..... 60

Mr. W. H. SMITH announced that the motion on the report of the special commission would be put down for discussion on Monday, the 3rd March.—The House adjourned at 12.15.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN LAMBETH.

## Two Lives Lost.

A fire, which had fatal results, broke out this morning on premises lying behind the western frontage of the Westminster Bridge-road, between Felix-street and Mason-street. The property, which was in the occupation of Messrs. Day, Anderson, and Co., fur and skin merchants, and whose premises, comprising offices, engine and boiler house, workshops, and stores, consisted of a large three-storied warehouse, crammed with an enormous quantity of skins. The fire employed nearly 300 hands. The premises were closed on Monday night, and nothing unusual was noticed until just before one o'clock next morning, when a great cloud of smoke was seen to be rolling up from the centre of the great block of buildings. The densely-crowded locality instantly became the scene of extraordinary excitement. Surrounding the premises of the firm were innumerable small tenements, and as the flames were raised, and flames followed the first appearance of smoke, the people turned out in hundreds to watch the progress made, and to gauge the chances of the safety of their own homesteads. By one o'clock flames were bursting out from nearly all the windows of the building. When a steam fire engine had passed under the railway bridge crossing Westminster Bridge-road, and the horses, in sight of the fire, were galloping at their utmost speed, a woman rushed from behind a cab, and in a moment had struck the pole, and was under the horses' feet. The heavy steamer was stopped in a few yards, but when the firemen ran back to the spot a sickening sight presented itself. The heavy wheel had passed over the woman's head, her skull was cut in half, and her brains were scattered in the road. The body was removed as soon as a stretcher could be procured. She was apparently about 50, was heavily dressed, and had absolutely nothing in her pockets. She was identified as the wife of John Shelley, of 50, Lower Marsh, Lambeth. At half past one Captain Shaw ordered every steamer to get to work as it arrived at the spot, and men were set to work in the surrounding buildings to direct the branches from every point upon the fire. A great workshop on the southern side of the burning mass, belonging to Messrs. Siebe and Gorman, engineers, had caught, and, further south, the premises of the Alliance Dairy Company were in great danger. Men were accordingly sent to do what they could to check the spread of the flames. At this time that the mishap occurred by which a fireman met a terrible death.

## A Fireman's Statement.

First-class Fireman Goodall says:—"We were ordered by Engineer Wall-Crowe, Ansell, and myself to get a line of hose from our steamer up Mason-street, through the Dairy Company's place, and out of the first-story window to a level where we were to check the spread of the fire. When we were ready I went up to see that the footing was sound and safe on the leads, and finding it was all right, we got the branch through. We were then about twenty-five feet from the back wall of the place that was burned, but you could not see it for fire and smoke. We handed out the branch, Crowe and Ansell at the end, and Ansell said, 'We'll have a few more feet of hose out, for it's rather hot work here.' I said, 'All right,' and, with one foot on the window sill and one on the lead, I tightened up the hose. Ansell said, 'That will do very nicely,' and I turned round to look if it would, when I heard a noise, and, looking up, saw the wall toppling over. I threw myself into the window, and fell downstairs. They were two or three feet nearer the fire, and had not time to do it, and the bricks were buried both." The crash of the falling wall instantly attracted the attention of all the firemen and officers near, who rushed to the spot, to find their two comrades were completely buried under great masses of brickwork, iron girders, &c. One of the first on the spot was Captain Shaw, who but a minute before had asked them to get the footing was safe. Not a second was lost in adopting means to recover the possibly lifeless bodies of the two men. Ansell's voice could be heard, although he was entirely hidden from view, and with hundreds of tons of debris surrounding him. He had, it was found afterwards, been somewhat sheltered by one great mass, which had not crushed him, and had kept the other masses off, and although he was dreadfully injured, he had presence of mind to direct his comrades in their work. He had got his hand and arm in an upright position, and he kept asking, "Can you see my hand? You must come lower." Before he was extricated the workers came upon the leg of Crowe, and long before his body could be released from the frightful weight above it was apparent that life was extinct. The poor fellow never spoke, and there is little doubt that death was instantaneous. When the bruised and battered remains were recovered they presented a dreadful sight.

At Birmingham, James Hobbesley, painter, was sent to prison for three months for assaulting Mrs. Wilkinson, wife of Canon Wilkinson, rector of St. Martin's. Mrs. Wilkinson went into a court to visit prisoner's mother, a poor parishioner. Prisoner opened the door and struck Mrs. Wilkinson on the face with his fist, causing her to fall on her back. Prisoner erroneously supposed that Mrs. Wilkinson had once had him sent to gaol.

At Marlborough-street Police Court, Adolph Reich, 31, hairdresser, of Greek-street, Soho, was charged with behaving in a disorderly manner in Greek-street. He entered the dock attired in feminine costume, and it was stated that he had been apprehended while so attired the night before. Mr. Newton, who defended, said it was carnival time on the continent, and his client (a foreigner) had put on his sister's dress to surprise her at a party at which she was spending the evening.—He was found over to be of good behaviour for a month.

## THE REVELATIONS IN THE CIGAR TRADE.

Mark Mordecai and Lewis Mordecai, his son, cigar dealers, of Mile End-road, appeared at the Worship-street Police Court on Thursday, to adjourned summonses charging them with having in their possession certain goods—cigars—to which a false trade description had been applied, and with applying such false trade description. The case arose out of the prosecution of a company manufacturing cigars in the East-end of London, which it was alleged they put into boxes branded with the name and address of a manufacturer in Mexico, and with labels said to be exact counterfeits of those applied by such manufacturer. Messrs. Mordecai were said to have dealt with the company for cigars, and to have in their possession boxes with the Mexican manufacturer's name, and certain labels for use with the company's cigars. The company has been convicted at the Old Bailey under the Merchandise Marks Act, and now Mr. Muir, for the prosecution, said that, after certain explanations by Messrs. Mordecai, it had been ascertained that the boxes and labels—should be destroyed, and the summonses withdrawn.—Mr. Bailey, for the defence, consented to that course, and said that the police had certain boxes in their possession which they could destroy, and all the boxes and labels in Messrs. Mordecai's possession could be destroyed in the presence of any one sent by the prosecution.—Mr. Bushby made an order to that effect.—John Redford, cigar dealer, of Exmouth-street, Clerkenwell, submitted for the possession only of similar goods, submitted to a similar order.

## THE SCHOOL BOARD SCANDALS.

At a meeting of the School Board on Thursday, the Rev. J. R. Diggle, presiding, Mr. Lobb asked the chairman of the Works Committee, whether it was a fact that the infants' head-mistress of the Orchard-street School, Hackney, in December last complained of offensive smells coming through the floor of one of the rooms on the ground floor, and whether the report of the clerk of works was correct, that two cart loads of soil and saturated earth had been removed from under the floor.—Mr. Helby replied in the affirmative.—Mr. Lobb: It is correct that the clerk of works who failed to find the cause of the offensive smells complained of the complaints of the teachers of Bonner-street school with regard to its insanitary condition, and which has since been found to be in a most appalling condition, causing the deaths of many children, and afflicting others with zymotic diseases?—Mr. Helby: The clerk of works in charge of the Orchard-street school is not the same gentleman who is in charge of Bonner-street school. In answer to a further question of Mr. Lobb, Mr. Helby said it was a fact that the Government Inspector of the Northey-street School, Limehouse, complained of bad smells, and upon examination it had been found necessary to improve the sanitary condition of the school at a cost of £150.—Mr. Lobb then asked whether it was true that in connection with the alterations at the Vauxhall-street School, Lambeth, a bad system of drainage had been discovered, and that the estimated cost to remove the whole of the drainage would be £2500?—Mr. Helby replied in the affirmative, but stated that certain alterations were proposed which would cost £2125.—Replying to a further question, Mr. Helby said the superintendent had reported that the drains of the Queen's Head-street School, Islington, were so defective that it would be necessary to close the school for fourteen days to carry out the absolutely necessary sanitary improvements at a cost of £200.

## SINGULAR APPLICATION FOR A DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE.

In the Divorce Division before Sir James Hannen, the case of Kalbitzer v. Kalbitzer came on for hearing on Thursday. It was a petition presented by the wife praying for the dissolution of her marriage on the ground of bigamy committed by her husband, formerly a colour-sergeant in her Majesty's 10th Regiment, in India.—Mr. Maloney said the parties were, on the 4th of October, 1869, married in India, and they afterwards returned to England, where they lived for about ten months. The petitioner heard nothing of her husband from 1870 until 1887. Prior to the latter year she heard that the respondent had died at some place in India, but subsequently she heard that the respondent was alive and living with a woman in Somersetshire. She presented a petition to the court last year, but in the year 1878, believing the respondent to be dead, she went through a ceremony of marriage with a man named Kelly, an engineer at Moulton, but that marriage had been dissolved by the High Court in India.—Mrs. Kalbitzer said she was married to the respondent at Moulton in 1869, she at that time was sixteen years of age and the respondent forty. She left the respondent because he said she had neglected the child. In 1874 she heard he had died at Dinapore. When she left him she went back to her parents in the north-west. In the year 1876 she went through the ceremony of marriage with George Kelly, and some time after that she heard through Kelly, that Kalbitzer was alive and living in Somersetshire, in England. She inquired of him, and he said he had been divorced by the High Court in India, and after that she had her marriage with Kelly dissolved. She came to England in 1889. She had previously given directions to her solicitor to institute proceedings in that court.—In reply to Sir James Hannen, the petitioner said she and Kalbitzer parted because he said she neglected the child that had been born of the marriage. The child had died through a quarrel she had with Kelly. She had been under the impression that her husband had died, but she had no evidence other than she had heard that Kalbitzer was dead. He never sent her any money.—Frederick Burford, solicitor, said that on the 27th of January of the present year he called at a house at Kingsdown, near Box, where he had been told Sergeant Kalbitzer resided. He did not go to that house on that occasion, but a day or two after he met him at Bath Railway Station, and recognised him.—This was the whole of the evidence offered on behalf of the petitioner. His lordship said he had heard the case, and the petitioner said she had an opportunity of considering her position. The husband was in no worse a position in the case than the wife. She evidently thought she had not committed bigamy, otherwise it would have been a bar to her own proceedings. The man had committed bigamy no more than the petitioner. In a letter written by the respondent, which had been produced, he stated he was confident he had done nothing wrong in any respect, and did not admit he had committed any offence. If the case was brought before him again, there was an important point to be considered. It had quite recently been solemnly decided by almost all the judges, that if a woman married again within seven years after the time she had last heard of her husband, it laid with her to show the reasonableness of the belief that her husband was dead. In a particular case a jury found a short time ago. In the present case, however, there was nothing to justify the belief. The wife separated from her husband upon perfectly sufficient grounds, and she did not appear to have taken sufficient steps to ascertain if Kalbitzer was really dead before she married again. Unless some fresh facts came out when the case was next before him she should have dismissed the petition.—The case accordingly stood adjourned.

Dr. Danford Thomas, coroner for Middlesex, has been apprised of a remarkable story of a baby, and details of a singular character are expected. The body was found in a dustbin at Hulton-road, Islington; and then Police-inspector Tyler set about finding out the mother. There were three ladies in the house attached to the dustbin, one married (landlady), another married (lodger), and a sister of the landlady (single). It is said that the baby was the specimen was stillborn.

## SAD SUICIDE OF A GOVERNESS.

Mr. Hicks held the adjourned inquiry on Friday, at the Star and Garter Tavern, Church-road, Battersea, relative to the death of Jessie Rogers, aged 24 years, a governess.—The evidence taken on the previous occasion was to the effect that the deceased left home at nine o'clock on the morning of the 12th inst., for the purpose of going to Hyde Park-square, where she was engaged as governess, and returned at seven o'clock in the evening, feeling unwell.—Other evidence was also given, which introduced matters connected with a dentist named Willis, who was also well known to the sister of the deceased.—The first witness called on Friday was Arthur John Oakman, second officer in the merchant service. He knew the deceased, and had been engaged to her since last January. He first knew her in April, 1884.—The Coroner: Did you ever remonstrate with her about being in the company of Mr. Willis? Witness: Yes; I spoke to her about Mr. Willis. She told me she had been to dinner with him, and also to the theatre.—Were you angry with her? Yes, very angry.—Did you ask her who Mr. Willis was? No. I knew who he was. She had spoken of him before.—Did she mention anything concerning him? Yes; she said Mr. Willis knocked her down at the shop in Lower Belgrave-street. She had also remarked that he was of violent temper.—Did she say how she was knocked down?—By her father she wished to keep her room, and Mr. Willis tried to force the door, which she had locked.—Were you very angry with her when she told you of Mr. Willis? Yes, I was very angry, and told her she would have to stop it.—At this point Mr. Grain, barrister, said he appeared for Mr. Willis.—Examination resumed: Witness parted with the deceased on very good terms on the last occasion that he saw her. He left her on the Tuesday night, and she seemed in good spirits. He met her the next night at about five minutes past seven. Their engagement was unknown to any body but themselves. He arranged to meet her on the last evening. When he saw her she rolled heavily from one side to the other.

## Taking Laudanum.

What did you say to her? I accused her of drink. She said she had not been drinking, but she had been to see Mr. Willis, and also to see Kitty.—Did she make any further remark? Yes, she said she had been taking laudanum. I did not know it was poison, but I thought people took it to make themselves sleep.—What did you do then? I took her further away and she became worse.—Did she say why she had been taking laudanum? Yes, to drive her pains away. As she became worse I took her home to her mother, carrying her from Bridge-road. A doctor was at once sent for, when she said that she had taken an ounce of laudanum.—Coroner (handing up several letters): Do you know that handwriting? Witness: No.—It corresponded with her, but her mother told me that the deceased had destroyed the letters the day before, on the Tuesday.—By Mr. Grain: She had been depressed for the past two years, ever since the death of her brother; but she did not appear to be upset on leaving her situation.—Mrs. Rogers, mother of the deceased, recalled, said that since the last examination she had looked through all the deceased's papers, and could find nothing that would lead to her committing this rash act. The deceased had never complained to her of any pains, nor had she ever been suspected that there was anything wrong.—The Coroner: Have you noticed at any time that she appeared to be under the influence of drink? Witness: Yes; and I remonstrated with her. I was not aware that deceased had left her situation. When she came home she told me that the children had a holiday.—Has she ever been away from home otherwise than in her situation? Yes; but I was always under the impression that she was staying with her sister.—Florence Rogers, examined, said she was the sister of the deceased.—The Coroner: Do I understand that the introduction to Mr. Willis was through you? Witness: Yes. As far as I know, I had always been present when Mr. Willis met my sister. We had been to dinner and to Gatti's and other places, but I was always present. There might have been occasions when Mr. Willis had met her accidentally.—I understand your sister had slept with you on several occasions at Bedford-street? Yes, that is so.—Did you go to dinner and to the theatre on the Tuesday with your sister and Mr. Willis? Yes; when we returned my sister went home with me. I know that my sister was in the habit of meeting Mr. Oakman, but I was not aware that she was engaged to him.—I don't wish to hurt your feelings, but how long since is it that you commenced?

## The Habit of Taking Spirits?

—Witness (weeping): Two years ago. The effect it had upon my sister was to produce excitement, afterwards followed by depression.—Did your sister ever say anything to you about the change in her condition? No. I understood she was distressed, and I was leaving her situation. The last time I saw Mr. Willis was on the 15th inst.—Do you know any one at 18, Old Burlington-street? No.—(Handing up a letter): Do you know that handwriting? Yes, it is Mr. Rogers's.—Do you know that handwriting? Yes, it is addressed to me, but I don't know how it came to be among my sister's papers. At times I was rather careless, and left my letters about.—Here is another letter, dated 1884, with the signature, "C.L.M." Do you know that? No.—The Coroner: Mr. Rogers, brother of the deceased, wishes it to be publicly known that the respondent cannot give any evidence because he has been away from home for several years.—Mr. Grain said he had no questions to ask. He had perused the coroner's depositions and the reports in the papers, and he did not think it necessary to call Mr. Willis.—The coroner then summed up, and in doing so commented on the action of the chemist in selling so large a quantity of poison to one person. The name of Mr. Willis had been mentioned, and it did not appear to him that it could have been avoided. They had nothing to do with the case, but the coroner for the girl, Florence, but at all events she was very indiscreet. Mr. Willis was a married man, and from a letter which he (the coroner) had in his possession, written by Mr. Willis for Jessie, it was shown to be a tissue of falsehoods.—Mr. Willis: No, sir.—The Coroner: I have the letter now with me.—Mr. Grain advised his client to allow the coroner to proceed.—The coroner said at any rate it was not a tissue of falsehoods it was incorrect. This case had disclosed some very painful facts, because they found that the paths of virtue, not only fallen from the horrible disease. From other letters in his (the coroner's) possession it seemed that she was acquainted with other people besides Mr. Willis, though it was true against the latter nothing but friendliness was alleged.—Mr. Willis (interrupting): May I say, sir, that week after week I saw nothing of this girl? That it was only in the most casual way that I ever saw her at all?—The coroner, in conclusion, thanked the jury for the verdict they had given to the case.—After a few minutes deliberation the following verdict was returned:—"That the deceased met her death by taking poison whilst in an unsound state of mind brought about by physical and mental difficulties."

Next Wednesday evening the Borthwick Habitation of the Primrose League will give a musical entertainment at the Addison Hall, Addison-road, Kensington. Among the artists who have kindly promised to give assistance are Madame Simeon, Miss Jenny Addison, Signor Carlo Ducci, Mr. Chilcot, Mr. Hilton, Mr. Cuthbert, and Mr. Jeffrey. In addition, Miss Grace Lowther will recite "Shadows," and Mr. Macklin is down for a Dickens selection. As a full house is certain, early application for tickets—2s. 6d. reserved seats, 1s. and 6d. unreserved—should be made to the hon. secretary, 33, Chancery-lane.

## THE HOLBORN MURDER.

## Arrest at Kilburn.

The police at Kilburn on Thursday apprehended a man on suspicion of being Ardolino, and he was taken to the Kilburn Police Station, where he was detained pending inquiries. A report is being circulated that the murderer Ardolino cannot return to Italy, he being wanted there on the charge of murder also.

## THE PARNELL COMMISSION.

## The Land League Funds.

On the subject of what has become of the Land League funds, the commissioners in their report (an abstract of which we published last week) complained very strongly that no proper statement had been put before them. In 1882 there had been a total acknowledged receipt of £224,820 of which £148,000 went for "general expenses." The judges say:—"Of the item of £148,000 above mentioned on the expenditure side, about £40,000 has been accounted for in the evidence before us; of the remaining £108,000 over £70,000 went to the Ladies' Land League. No account has been given in evidence of the expenditure of the money handed over to the Ladies' Land League or of the residue of the £108,000. We have information from Mr. Davitt of a book called the 'Book of Kells,' kept by the Ladies' Land League. Neither this book nor any other book of the Ladies' Land League has been produced. Thus we have over £100,000 of Land League funds received, but no details of the manner in which it was expended." Finally, they pass the following grave censure:—"On this subject we may say generally that we have not received from Mr. Parnell and the officers of the Land League the assistance we were entitled to expect in the investigation of the Land League accounts, in order that it might be seen how its funds were expended."

## "IN THE SWIM."

## BY A CITY SHARK.

No particular movement has taken place in the markets, the "ups" of one day being pretty equally balanced by the "downs" of the next. All the same, the general bearings of the situation are steadily improving, especially in the money market, which is decidedly easier. By keeping the rate of discount at 6 per cent., the Bank of England has done very good service, its liberal action tending to check the spirit of speculation which at the end of last year threatened to precipitate a financial crisis. At present, it is kept well within bounds, there being few weak accounts left open. It remains to be seen, nevertheless, whether the larger demands of trade will not cause increased stringency when the spring sets in. That, however, is not such an imminent danger as the real prospect of a general strike in the coal trade. Let us hope that conciliatory counsels will prevail, both with masters and men. If a blow from which it may take a long time to recover. It would not be within my province to saddle either party with a judgment but, like a good many other speculators, I feel inclined to say, "A plague on both your houses." For, how can we do business with tranquil minds when such a menacing storm cloud is hanging over the horizon? Caution, even to an extreme degree, must necessarily be our watchword, and my readers should, therefore, understand that in following any tips I may give, they should walk as warily as the souls of devout Mahomedans do when approaching Paradise. Subject to this condition, I repeat the advice I gave last week to freeze on to Metropolitan as a rare good thing. The shares have almost continuously appreciated in value since I first recommended them, but they are good, I believe, for a still further rise. Great-Western and Midland are the next best-looking things in English rails, but there is not the same chance of a big profit as in Metropolitan. 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